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Nuclear Test Documents Exchanged With U.S.

LD3110183988 Moscow TASS in English 1823 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Geneva October 31 TASS—Soviet and American delegations had an official exchange of documents on the results of a joint verification experiment at the full-scale Soviet-American talks on the limitation and cessation of nuclear tests, in Geneva today. The documents were exchanged in accordance with an agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to stage a joint verification experiment.

The documents contain the final results concerning the power of explosions conducted within the joint experiment at the Nevada test site on August 17, 1988 and at a testing range in Semipalatinsk on September 14 this year, respectively.

When exchanging the documents, the heads of the Soviet and American delegations noted that a joint experiment on verification of nuclear tests is a unique event in relations between the two countries. They said the experiment had achieved the chief goal set forth by the Soviet and American leaders during their Washington and Moscow summits, which is to work out mutually-acceptable methods to verify the conduction of nuclear explosions.

The delegation heads expressed the hope that the materials presented by both sides would enable the two delegations to start the final co-ordination of the protocol to the 1974 Treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear-Weapon Tests. The protocol will map out measures to verify the observance of the treaty, which will make it possible to submit it and its protocol for ratification to the U.S. Congress and the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Military Experts Arrive in UK To Inspect Bases

LD3110204388 Moscow TASS in English 2035 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] London October 31 TASS—Under the provisions about the verification of the Soviet-American Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, a group of Soviet military experts consisting of ten persons arrived in Great Britain today to conduct inspections at U.S. Air Force bases situated here. This is the second visit of Soviet experts to Greenham-Common and Molesworth bases where a total of 117 cruise missiles is kept now. The first two missiles of this class were removed to the USA from the Molesworth base in September. Under the provisions of the verification procedure, the Soviet group will start inspections tomorrow after it states to the U.S. side what concrete facilities the group wishes to inspect.

NATO, Pact Representatives Hold Mandate Talks

LD3110114888 Moscow TASS in English 1141 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Vienna October 31 TASS—Today another meeting was held here within consultations between representatives of the Warsaw Treaty and NATO member states on drafting a mandate for future talks on armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Participants in the consultations were briefed on the results of the conference of the committee of the Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers, which was held in Budapest on October 28-29, 1988. The need was emphasized again for completing the drafting of a mandate in the near future so as to start the talks this year.

Progress of Conventional Arms Talks Viewed

LD3010141888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1130 GMT 30 Oct 88

[From the "International News" presented by Irna Mishina]

[Text] Fifteen years ago talks started in Vienna on mutual armed forces and armaments reductions in central Europe. They were designed to give an answer to the following question: How is the possibility of a sudden attack by means of conventional armaments to be prevented?

It must be said that the Vienna talks have not, for the time being, led to real and noticeable success. What is to blame for this? It would seem that there has been no shortage of proposals. For instance, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have put forward over 20 different plans in those 15 years. Naturally the NATO countries did not remain silent all this time. But instead of businesslike, constructive proposals, they—I mean the NATO countries—put forward elements that do not meet the principle of equality and equal security. Take, for instance, their demand for a considerably greater reduction on the part of the socialist countries in conventional armaments.

The importance of reaching an accord in Vienna as soon as possible was discussed between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the leaders of Italy and the FRG. This subject was also examined in detail during the meeting of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Pact member-states which took place in Budapest.

The allied socialist states put forward specific proposals which must facilitate the achievement of an accord in Vienna as soon as possible; I have in mind their statement on confidence-building measures, security, and disarmament in Europe.

Aboymov, Gerasimov Brief Journalists

Aboymov on Pact Meeting

LD3110135288 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—A Soviet deputy foreign minister has described the present-day situation in Europe as "crucial" and "giving a chance to carry out an irreversible turn towards truly lasting security, trust and stability in Europe."

Ivan Aboymov, speaking at a briefing in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press centre today, said that the Warsaw Treaty foreign ministers who took part in the recent meeting in Budapest once again came out in favour of the earliest successful completion of the Vienna meeting.

This meeting, he noted, was designed to "put an end to a new stage in all-European cooperation and, what is particularly important, launch talks, unique by their significance and dimensions, on reducing armed forces and conventional armaments and talks on confidence and security-building measures in Europe."

Aboymov recalled that in the run up to the Budapest meeting the Warsaw treaty countries complemented the declaration on the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, adopted in the Warsaw session of the Political Consultative Committee, with a document setting out their vision of the subsequent evolution of confidence and security-building measures in Europe.

The speaker observed that the principal objective of elaborating a new package of measures was "to lower the risk of an outbreak of armed conflict in Europe, diminish and eliminate the threat of sudden attack, reinforce reciprocal security, impart a strictly defensive character to military activity, expand its transparency and predictability and facilitate the implementation of disarmament measures."

In the opinion of the meeting's participants, establishing a European centre on diminishing the threat of war and preventing a sudden attack would be a qualitatively new step towards strengthening mutual trust.

With the adoption of the new document, said the Foreign Ministry official, "the Warsaw Treaty member countries have come to possess an integral concept of the forthcoming forums both of 23 and 35 countries, designed to conduct since the start of negotiations an honest and constructive dialogue directed at specific agreements."

They expected that the suggested approach would evoke an adequate response from other participants in the future talks.

Neither the Soviet Union nor other Warsaw Treaty member countries possessed a completed design of an all-European home, Aboymov said. "We believe that making and realizing this design should be a concerted undertaking demanding collective search and effort of all states concerned.

"We proceed from the premise that along with the European countries, the United States and Canada are equal partners in building the all-European home."

'Positive Assessment' of PRC Talks

LD3110153588 Moscow TASS in English 1455 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—Commenting on the results of a session of the Committee of Foreign Ministers of the Warsaw Treaty member states, Ivan Aboymov, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, said at a briefing held at the press centre of the USSR Foreign Ministry today that in the opinion of participants in the session, "the creation in Europe of a centre for lessening military threat and preventing a sudden attack would be a qualitatively new step in the consolidation of mutual trust." They went on record in favour of successfully concluding as soon as possible the Vienna meeting which is "to set the beginning of a new stage in all-European cooperation."

Speaking about the development of Soviet-Chinese relations, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry, said at the briefing that Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, had received today Tian Zengpei, deputy foreign minister of the People's Republic of China. A positive assessment was given to the general development of the talks. The attention of the head of the Chinese delegation was called to the initiatives put forward by the Soviet leadership in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Krasnoyarsk. The sides discussed at the talks questions connected with the development of Soviet-Chinese relations in the setting of the first official visit of the foreign minister of the People's Republic of China to the USSR which is due to take place before the end of the year.

A meeting of Soviet and American experts on the problem of the Krasnoyarsk radar station started in Geneva today. Its participants will discuss problems connected with the realization of a Soviet proposal on the creation on its basis of an international cooperation centre for a peaceful use of outer space. The Soviet side, Gerasimov continued, will put forard proposals on tasks of the international centre and ways of their fulfilment jointly with specialists from the U.S. and other countries.

The USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman dwelt on the situation around Afghanistan. The Armed Forces of the Republic staged a number of combat operations in Qandahar Province. Gerasimov pointed out that in response to the growing arms deliveries from Pakistan to

Aleksey Glukhov said further that the question of the reduction of the duration of military service in the Soviet Armed Forces is discussed now with vigorous participation of the Soviet public.

Touching upon the question of the exit of Soviet citizens from the USSR, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that taking into account the international covenants included, the state will be observing the commitments assumed in this area. He said that 28,000 Soviet citizens left for permanent residence abroad last year and that 40,000 thousand left the USSR for permanent residence abroad within nine months of this year (this figure does not include children).

There were 11.5 thousand citizens of the Jewish nationality among the persons who left to live abroad. In order to protect secrets, 376 citizens, among them 227 persons of the Jewish nationality, were denied exit over the same period. Another 15,000 applications for exit are considered by the USSR Ministry of the Interior.

United States & Canada

U.S. Changes Policy in Relations With DPRK

LD0111122788 Moscow TASS in English 1128 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 1 TASS—A spokesman for the U.S. Department of State announced on Monday some changes in the U.S. Administration's policy toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

He said that the U.S. Government decided to ease trade embargoes against North Korea and allowed U.S. companies to supply on a limited basis humanitarian goods, including food, clothing and medical and agricultural equipment to the country.

U.S. diplomats have been allowed to contact North Korean representatives on "neutral territory".

Bans on travel to the U.S. imposed on scientists, sportsmen, cultural figures and other "unofficial representatives" of the DPRK have been lifted, U.S. citizens have been allowed to visit the DPRK as well.

According to the spokesman, decisions to permit such visits will be made in "each particular case".

The decision to revise the U.S. policy toward the DPRK had been taken in the course of "close consultations" with representatives of South Korea, including president No Tae-u and with other interested parties, said the spokesman.

Reagan Denies Hampering Release of Hostages

LD0111093188 Moscow TASS in English 0720 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Washington November 1 TASS—U.S. President Reagan on Monday rejected statements to the effect that by its interference the U.S. Government hampered several times the efforts to gain the release of American hostages in Lebanon. This claim was made by Terry Anderson, former head of the Associated Press bureau in Beirut, who has been held captive for almost four years now.

"That is absolutely not true", the President said in Los Angeles responding to newsmen's questions. As the President put it, Terry Anderson "had a script that was given to him".

Reagan repeated that his administration has never been negotiating with kidnappers but has been doing everything it could to set the hostages free. Responding to questions concerning the Iran-contras affair, whose disclosure triggered a big political scandal, the President stated that "there was no scandal". "That scandal has been artificiallly created by a media", Reagan said.

Reagan L.A. Speech Sums Up Foreign Policy

PM3110163788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Oct 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS report under the rubric "Across Countries and Continents": "The President Sums Up"]

[Text] Washington, 29 Oct—President Reagan has delivered a speech to the Los Angeles International Affairs Council, in which he basically summed up the results of his administration's foreign policy activity. He also gave his opinion on how the next U.S. President should conduct affairs in the international arena.

The head of the White House said that 1988 has been "one of the most important and significant periods in foreign policy." According to him, "our children will possibly regard 1988 as a turning point in the struggle known as the 'cold war.'" In recent months, the president continued, "phenomenal progress has been made on many fronts." He primarily drew attention to the fact that the historic Soviet-U.S. agreement on the elimination of intermediate- range and shorter-range missiles has come into force. Now "we are witnessing Russian and American missiles—whose number was at one time increasing—being destroyed in the very heart of Russia and America. Arms control talks are continuing or there are prospects of such talks being held in a number of other areas: chemical and conventional weapons, nuclear arms tests, and, of course, cuts in strategic offensive weapons."

He described the democratic transformations taking place in the Soviet Union as "most inspiring changes." Reagan admitted that a few years ago not only he himself but the majority of Americans would have found it hard to imagine the U.S. President strolling around Red Square with the Soviet leader. Whatever the future may bring, the President said, we can say that "we have come a long way and we are living in a remarkable time."

Reagan said that changes have also been made in U.S. foreign policy over the last 8 years. In this respect he said that the U.S. course in the international arena is not only founded on American military might and active diplomatic efforts but also on open support for "freedom fighters" across the world, as Washington terms counter-revolutionary formations in various countries.

The President stressed that until its term of office ends next January the present administration will determinedly continue trying to achieve "what is left on the agenda." The next U.S. Administration must also try to achieve these "important foreign policy objectives." He described the achievement of "progress in the task of settling regional conflicts, which could so easily develop into a bigger war," as one such paramount task.

The President spoke in favor of continuing arms limitation talks, emphasizing that a treaty on a 50-percent reduction in the Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive

arsenals "could be concluded in the next few years." At the same time Reagan said that the United States "must determinedly continue with research, development [razrabotka], and testing" under the "Star Wars" program. "The time has come to redouble these efforts rather than diminish them." He also noted that the United States must maintain a strong defense at all costs.

This speech by President Reagan, UPI says, was made "against a background of serious political debate in the United States on the record" of the administration.

Bush, Dukakis Distort Truth, Fight 'Dirty'
OW3110210488 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1240 GMT 31 Oct 88

[From "The World Today" program; presented by Igor Kudrin]

[Text] Now for several characteristic facts, figures, statements, and opinions pertaining to the U.S. presidential elections. Recently, many Americans have become annoyed that both candidates have increasingly resorted to dirty fighting tricks, are distorting truth, and making personal attacks against the opponent as a person, politician, citizen, and father. Senator Stanley [name indistinct] put it this way: what we are seeing is a battle of worthy men who are resorting to unworthy methods.

An opinion poll conducted by NBC and THE WALL STREET JOURNAL revealed a fair amount of scepticism among the voters. [video shows Bush making an address] For example, only 21 percent of the people polled believe Bush's promise that he will not raise taxes. This promise constitutes one of the main themes of his campaign. The same poll had shown that 7 out of every 10 Americans feel that neither of the candidates have a clear idea of how, in the next 4 years, to solve the main problem facing the United States—the question of excessive U.S. debt.

The latest opinion poll is particularly unpleasant for Michael Dukakis. Yet again, the poll predicts his defeat. Admittedly, he himself is not giving up hope. The day before yesterday Dukakis said to the people of a Detroit suburb, consisting mostly of workers, that the opinion polls are of no consequence. Only the voters determine results. With this in mind, he often recalls, during meetings and television interviews, the history of years ago when Harry Truman, who represented the Democrats, and who no one took very seriously while predicting a victory for his Republican opponent, did in fact win. Are we any worse than he, asks Dukakis, while attempting to sting George Bush as painfully as possible.

Dukakis says that the Republicans can only help those Americans who have already gained something in life. But the Democrats, if they are elected, will care for all who are in need of help—those who are trying to buy a house, to send their child to college, as well as the drug addicts who urgently need care. [video shows Dukakis addressing a meeting]

The Democrats, nevertheless, have to admit that Dukakis appears to be remote and that he lacks the passion and charisma to become a real leader and win over the American masses.

Meanwhile, the most popular U.S. politician, President Reagan, also wastes no opportunity to somehow belittle Dukakis and to augment the importance of Bush. Characteristically, in the past week, Reagan twice noted the special contribution of his vice president—in the struggle against bureaucracy and the work to improve the economic situation, and in the planning of the Grenada invasion by U.S. forces 5 years ago.

The struggle for the White House is coming to the end. Let me remind you that the elections will be held on 8 November.

U.S. Curbs Visas to Soviet Immigrants
PM2110142388 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 43, 22-28 Oct 88 (Signed to Press 20 Oct 88) p 6

[D. Makarov article under the rubric "Photofact": "The People No One Expects"; accompanying photograph purports to depict line of people standing outside the U.S. Embassy building in Moscow]

[Text] The line you can see in the photograph is not standing outside a museum, is not waiting for theater tickets, and is not even waiting to buy sausage. These are people who have decided to leave the Soviet Union and are waiting to enter the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to get their U.S. entry visas. It seems, however, that many are going to have to wait a long time.

The fact is that since 1 July this year the U.S. Administration has temporarily halted its issue of entry visas to Soviet citizens and, from 1 October, which is the start of the new fiscal year, it is planned to establish strict quotas for entry into the United States by foreign citizens who wish to take up permanent residence there. For East Europe, including the Soviet Union, this quota is 24,500 people. What is the reason for these restrictions? The official explanation given is the tough economy measures the U.S. Government has been forced to introduce in order to somehow reduce the colossal federal budget deficit.

In the past, the problem of emigration from the USSR has been a source of all manner of propaganda dividends for the West. Now, when the number of Soviet citizens leaving the country to take up permanent residence abroad has increased 5.3 times between 1986 and 1987,

talk of the "closed nature" of Soviet society has rapidly died down and the United States is now in a hurry to place barriers in front of potential immigrants.

"International human rights norms," U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz said at a session of the U.S. Congress Judiciary Committee, "recognize the right to emigrate from and return to your own country but not the right to emigrate to any country of your choice... The United States recognizes its moral obligations in this sphere, but we also have our own limitations imposed by the laws on immigrants and refugees, which define the criteria for desirability of entry and the number we are in a position to accept."

So potential emigrants are going to have to wait a while before they discover America. They are not expected there.

Ryzhkov Meets U.S.-led Western Economists

LD3110205788 Moscow TASS in English 2056 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Ryzhkov today received a group of prominent Western economists, led by American financier George Soros. They are now in Moscow to see forms and methods of economic management in the USSR and to have consultations with Soviet economists.

Different aspects of the economic reform in the USSR and the attitude of Western business circles to it were touched upon in the course of the talk which was of a conceptual character.

Taking part in the talk were deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, chairman of the State Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Vladimir Kamentsev, Soviet scientists.

Kamentsev Receives U.S. Businessmen in Moscow

PM0111093588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 27 October V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, received a group of eminent representatives of industrial, financial, and trade circles from the U.S. midwest who are in the Soviet Union to study the new opportunities for developing ties with Soviet organizations emerging in the course of restructuring in the USSR.

At the businessmen's request, V.M. Kamentsev spoke about the progress of foreign economic reform in the USSR and the present state and future prospects of Soviet-U.S. economic relations.

The U.S. participants in the meeting declared their intention to play an active part in the development of Soviet-U.S. trade and economic ties, including joint ventures.

China

Sino-Soviet Border Talks End in Moscow

OW0111111888 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] The third round of the Soviet-Chinese boundary talks was held in Moscow from 20 to 31 October. The Soviet Government delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Rogachev, and the Chinese Government delegation was headed by Vice Minister Tian Zengpei. The two sides discussed the question of the alignment of the eastern boundary line and reached common understanding [tong yi de li jie] on the boundary line in most of the eastern section. The two sides will continue discussing the alignment of the boundary line still in dispute.

During the current round of talks, the Soviet and Chinese Government delegations also started to discuss the alignment of the western boundary line between the two countries, and decided to set up work groups to resolve the issues and to jointly take aerial photographs over the line.

USSR Agrees To Assist Power Stations in PRC

LD2910133388 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Beijing October 29 TASS—By TASS correspondents Vladimir Kashirov and Vyacheslav Tomilin: The USSR and China signed a contract under which the Soviet Union will give technical assistance in building a one- million-kilowatt thermal power power station, Jixian, in China. This is one of the first three thermal power stations whose construction is envisioned by the Soviet- Chinese inter-governmental agreement.

The contract was signed by representatives of the All-Union Foreign Trade Association, Technopromexport, and the Chinese company for the export and import of equipment. Under the document, Soviet organisations will supply abroad for the first time a complete electric power station with a 500,000-kw power-generating unit. With the signing of the contract for the Jixian thermal power station, the overall value of the contracts signed by Technopromexport and Chinese organisations will amount to about a billion Swiss francs.

Next year, it is planned to sign Soviet-Chinese contracts for building another three large thermal stations with an aggregate capacity of 3.2 million kilowatts in China.

"The Chinese side feels great satisfaction in view of the successful start in the two countries' cooperation in power engineering", Xiong Quangeng, vice-president of

the Chinese company for the export and import of equipment, said in a TASS interview. "The Chinese proverb has it 'Everything begins from the first step' and we have taken it. The completion of the work to build the Jixian thermal power station 80 kilometers from Beijing in 1992 will enable the country to ease dramatically the tense situation in the power supply in the vast area of China. We hope for a further development and expansion of bilateral mutually advantageous cooperation in power engineering".

PRC Official on Likely Soviet Space Cooperation

PM2610123388 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 26 Oct 88 p 3

[Unattributed report under the rubric "SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA Teleprinter": "PRC"]

[Text] China advocates the peaceful use of space in the interests of mankind. The Soviet Union's achievements in this sphere are well known to all. There has not yet been any cooperation between the PRC and the USSR in the space and cosmonautics sphere, but I think that cooperation between our countries will develop, Tong Lianjie, deputy director of the Satellite Launch Center, has stated.

PRC Weekly Views Soviet 'Strategic' New Thinking

PM2610092188 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Oct 88 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Chinese Weekly on New Political Thinking"]

[Text] Beijing, 21 Oct—The weekly SHEHUI KEXUE BAO, published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, has carried an article headlined "The New Thinking: A Strategic Amendment." The author, Ji Mo, a specialist in philosophy, points out that there are many disputes in scientific circles at present on a number of important questions concerning the new political thinking. Some scientists assume that the concept of the new thinking is no more than a "tactical change." The article's author does not share this viewpoint, stating that "the new thinking is is undoubtedly a strategic amendment and no half-measure."

Serious changes in any state's foreign and domestic policy, the article says, particularly in that of such a major power as the Soviet Union, are by no means a chance phenomenon. The new thinking is the result of a critical analysis of the situation in the modern world and the realization that a responsible approach to politics requires that it have profound scientific foundations. It is also the result of rejecting certain "truths" that previously seemed unshakeable. The new thinking is the product of the current era and it has reflected in the sphere of international relations the changes that are under way in the USSR's domestic policy, the weekly writes.

The article stresses the accuracy of M.S. Gorbachev's analysis of contemporary realities and future development trends. The Soviet Union, the author notes, wants a calm international atmosphere in order to concentrate its forces on qualitatively improving its economy. The United States hopes to check USSR development by using the SDI program, but this will only result in the United States undermining its own economy.

The new thinking has led to a reinterpretation of the theory and practice of socialist building. It was acknowledged that socialist countries have still not displayed their advantages in the peaceful rivalry with capitalism, having encountered great difficulties, elements of stagnation, and crises.

In the theoretical context the new thinking has put forward many important new theses; this applies not only to the criticism of Stalin's theoretical opinions but also to the amendment of a number of classic definitions of the modern age, imperialism, and questions of war and peace, the article in the Chinese weekly says.

Chinese Banker Talks About USSR Visit

OW2710053888 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Text] Listeners and friends, we reported earlier on the visit of China's banking delegation to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union and China signed an agreement, thus opening a new prospect for handling financial and monetary operations and improving the system of settling accounts between our two countries. The Chinese guests, in addition to visiting Moscow, visited Leningrad. Our station's Leningrad reporter asked Ling Zhi, head of the Chinese banking delegation and vice president of the Bank of China, to talk about his impression of his visit to the Soviet Union.

[Begin Ling recording] The main purpose of our visit to Leningrad this time is to see a branch of the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity in Leningrad and to tour the famous city of Leningrad. I know Leningrad is a very beautiful city. It also has many things of historical significance worth visiting. We saw many places in Leningrad. Our main interest was the Winter Palace and the Cruiser Avrora. We knew about these things of historical and revolutionary significance long before our visit. Still, we are very glad to have seen them personally. I think banks play intermediary roles in economic and trading exchanges between two countries. They promote economic, trade, and cultural development between the two countries. [end recording]

Representatives of the Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the USSR, Leningrad Branch, also held the same opinion. The Soviet and Chinese bankers held detailed talks on forming joint enterprises, cooperation, and improving noncurrency exchanges of commodities and services.

Soviet Trade Unionist Interviewed on PRC Visit

OW2910062188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Today is 22 October. Disembarking from an aircraft which landed at Beijing Airport a short while ago are the members of the delegation of the Soviet Metallurgical Industry Trade Union. Prior to its departure for China, Comrade (Gulakhin), a member of the delegation, gave an interview to [name indistinct], a reporter of this station. My first question is:

[Reporter] What is the purpose of your delegation's visit to China?

[(Gulakhin)] in Russian, fading to Mandarin translation] We are going to China to attend an international meeting on protecting labor, health, and the environment. We shall submit a report to the meeting, which is sponsored by the International Society of Social Protection [GUO JI SHE HUI BAO ZHANG XIE HUI]

[Reporter] What is the title of the report?

[(Gulakhin)] Our report is about how to protect young workers' health. Our trade union attaches great importance to the work in this area. We are ready to carry out [word indistinct] health [word indistinct] in our country's (?metallurgical and mining) industry [words indistinct].

[Reporter] I hear you have other plans besides attending the meeting.

[(Gulakhin)] We plan to meet with young representatives of China's trade unions. In their telegrams to us, Chinese trade unions proposed that we have a meeting in Beijing. They also proposed that we visit a young enterprise in Beijing to familiarize ourselves with the structure of its trade union.

[Reporter] What do you think would be the results of the meeting?

[(Gulakhin)] First of all, I think we can exchange experiences in protecting the labor and health of young workers. Moreover, contacts between trade unions of our two countries [words indistinct] can help us do a quicker and better job in resolving problems concerning labor collectives' participation in management and improvement of production and adoption of new technology—in short, all sorts of issues relevant to trade unions.

[Reporter] Well then, let me wish your delegation's visit to China success.

Northeast Asia

Trade Accord With South Korea 'Unofficial'

OW2810131888 Tokyo KYODO in English 1237 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 28 KYODO—An agreement between the Soviet Union and South Korea to open trade representative offices in each other's country, reported earlier this month, is not an official government accord, a Soviet diplomatic source in Tokyo said on Friday.

The source stressed the arrangement was an unofficial one, claiming that the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which had reached the agreement with the South Korean side, is not a governmental organization.

Vladimir Golanov, vice chairman of the Soviet chamber, confirmed on October 16 just before his departure from Seoul that he had exchanged memoranda in Seoul on direct trade and economic exchange between the Soviet Union and South Korea.

Under the agreement, arranged during his six-day visit to South Korea, the two sides are reported planning to establish trade offices in each other's country. The Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations with Seoul, though it has official ties with North Korea.

North Korea recently strongly criticized Hungary over a Hungary-South Korea agreement to establish permanent mission offices in each other's country despite the absence of diplomatic ties.

The Soviet diplomatic source in Tokyo made the statement on the accord with Seoul out of apparent consideration for North Korea irritation over South Korea's increasing approaches toward socialist countries, analysts here said.

Korean Confederate State Proposal Cited

PM2410113788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Oct 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Program Put Forward by DPRK"]

[Text] New York, 20 Oct—The 43d UN General Assembly session has completed an examination of the question of promoting peace, conciliation, and dialogue on the Korean peninsula. The DPRK delegation put forward a program for resolving this problem.

The Korean people, said delegation head Kang Sok-chu, DPRK first vice minister of foreign affairs, will never come to terms with the country's division into "two Koreas." Unification should be achieved by peaceful means on the basis of the principles of independence and

national unity. A realistic path for resolving this question lies through the creation of a Democratic Confederate Republic of Koryo, and the existence of two different social systems on the peninsula should not be a pretext for retaining the country's division.

In the DPRK Government's opinion, this state would include two autonomous governments and would provide for the retention of two systems on the basis of coexistence. It is planned to create a national confederate assembly with an equal number of representatives for North and South and to form in it a standing committee and joint government for leading the autonomous government's actions on questions affecting the country's common interests.

In its activity the Democratic Confederate Republic of Koryo should act as an independent, sovereign, nonaligned, neutral state. The source of military confrontation between North and South will thus be totally eliminated, a single national army will be created with a subsequent substantial reduction of armed forces, the military demarcation line will be abolished, and self defense detachments will be disbanded.

The Democratic Confederate Republic of Koryo would become the Korean people's sole representative in the United Nations and other international organizations, developing friendly ties with all countries and pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy. Preconditions would be created for turning the Korean peninsula into a zone of peace free of nuclear weapons. To this end it is essential to ban the presence of foreign troops on its territory and the creation of foreign military bases and to halt the deployment of nuclear weapons.

To achieve unification, the DPRK representative said, dialogue between North and South is essential, including summit talks. Above all a joint declaration by North and South on nonaggression and the creation of a confederate government for the unified state or a committee for peaceful reunification should be discussed and a decision should be taken. A peace agreement between the DPRK and the United States should be an important guarantee of peace on the peninsula, Kang Sok-chu stressed.

'Problems' in North-South Korean Dialogue Cited

OW2910012688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2255 GMT 26 Oct 88

[From the Novosti newscast; M. Kretov video report]

Panmunjom—this was the name of the unused railway station situated between Pyongyang and Seoul. Now it is the name given to the only place on the Korean peninsula where contacts between representatives of North and South Korea have been going on for some 35 years. [video shows a large modern building, cutting to shots of the interior where representatives of the two sides are seated at a table] Here, the fifth round of the preliminary talks in preparation for the North-South interparliamentary meeting are being held.

For several hours five representatives from each side discussed organizational and fundamental questions pertaining to the forthcoming interparliamentary meeting. Agreement that a new meeting will be held in November has been reached.

After the talks, Chon Kum-chol, responsible secretary of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, held a press conference. He said that the meeting between the DPRK and South Korea is the most acceptable form of dialogue as it will allow significant progress in the solution of the main problems which exist on the Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, however, the much desired fundamental agreement in the course of such contacts were, up to this date, not achieved.

The problems lie in the fact that the two sides differ in their approach to the dialogue itself. The DPRK feels that the dialogue should not be merely for the sake of dialogue. It should be aimed at achieving the main goal: the peaceful and democratic reunification of the fatherland without foreign interference. Pyongyang feels that the military and political questions must not, under any circumstances, be excluded from the framework of the talks, the most important of these being the preparation and acceptance of a nonaggression pact between the North and South. Without solving these main problems it is impossible to develop mutual exchanges and trade between the North and South. Unfortunately, at this stage, Seoul does not feel the same way. At the fifth round of the preliminary talks, the North made a compromise proposal regarding organizational questions pertaining to the forthcoming meeting. The South Korean side had promised to study them and to provide an answer at the next meeting.

DPRK Military Delegation Visits Alma-Ata

LD2710133988 Alma-Ata Domestic Service in Russian 0200 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] A military delegation from the DPRK is on a visit. A delegation of political personnel in the Korean People's Army, headed by Colonel General (Yi Bon-Van), member of the Korean Workers' Party Central Committee, is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. The guests arrived in Kazakhstan on 22 October, where they began acquainting themselves with the life and combat and political training of servicemen and with the republic's economy and culture. On 24 October the delegation was received at the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee. Comrade Kolbin, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, told them of the progress of restructuring, of the work of party organizations in implementing political and economic reforms, and of the improvement of the ideological, moral, internationalist, and patriotic education of

the working people. Present at the meeting were Comrade Yefimov, chief of the Administrative of Affairs department of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, and Lieutenant General Chichkalov, member of the Military Council and head of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District. The guests from the DPRK were also received by the Military Council of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District. The Korean comrades visited one of the guards units of the district, visited the Marshal Konev higher all-arms command school in Alma-Ata, and met with workers from the (Koktelenskiy) sovkhoz, Alma-Ata oblast. They laid flowers at the memorial of glory in the park of the 28th Panfilov Guards.

UN Draft Resolution Blocks Solution for Cambodia
LD2310052988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Boris Andriyanov commentary]

[Text] It is reported from Hanoi that Vietnam decisively rejects the draft resolution on Cambodia that the ASEAN Countries put forward at the current 43d session of the UN General Assembly. This was stated at a press conference by Ho The Lan, a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Here is a news commentary. At the microphone is Boris Andriyanov:

[Andriyanov] Why does Vietnam decisively reject the aforementioned draft resolution on Cambodia? I'll say right away it has the most weighty reasons for this. But to understand the basis for them, it is essential to recall some very recent events. Just a few months ago, many foreign observers were very skeptial about the chances for a peaceful settlement of the Cambodian situation. Now they have to reconsider their views, since more and more chances have been appearing recently for a political solution of the Cambodian problem. Progress in this question was greatly helped by the good will of Vietnam and Cambodia who announced the withdrawal of a large Vietnamese military contingent from Cambodian soil by the end of this year. The role of Indonesia and other countries of the Association of South East Asian States—ASEAN—is noteworthy, making efforts to bring a political settlement of the Cambodian conflict closer. An instructive example was given in the connection by the informal meeting which took place 3 months ago in Bogor, near Jakarta. It justifiably aroused a wide response in the broadest circles of the world public. Such a reaction to the Bogor meeting is quite understandable, for there, for the first time, representatives of all the sides involved in the Cambodian conflict met together. All the countries of Indochina and ASEAN were also represented in Bogor. It is by no means by chance that I have recalled who was present at that meeting. The fact is that all the participants, who have a genuine interest in a speedy settlement of the Cambodia problem, came to a unanimous decision about two conditions which are essential for reaching the goal they have set. The first is the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteers from Cambodia, and the second condition is that this withdrawal should be accompanied by obligatory guarantees that all outside help to the Pol Potites should be stopped, in order to prevent their return to power in the country. These two conditions, in essence, are the key questions to a Cambodian settlement, and are indissolubly linked together. And now here it turns out that this principled achievement of the meeting in Bogor has not been reflected at all in the draft resolution on Cambodia put forward at the General Assembly by the ASEAN countries. The authors of this document have based it on invented accusations against Vietnam, which distort the real situation in Cambodia. The proposals contained in the draft resolution do not provide for a reliable barrier on the path of the return of the Pol Pot genocidal regime to Cambodia, which at one time came under sharp condemnation by the world public. And the Pol Pot leaders do not hide their ambitious plans to seize power in the country when the Vietnamese voluteers have left. It turns out that the ASEAN countries' draft resolution is not in accordance with the positive trends that were developed at the Bogor meeting. This document is able only to block a solution to the Cambodian problem within the United Nations.

Rogachev Receives Japanese Counterpart
LD2610230788 Moscow TASS in English 2230 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 27 TASS—Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the USSR, received October 26 Mitihiko Kunihiro, deputy foreign minister of Japan, who is in Moscow for the Soviet-Japanese intergovernment consultations on trade and economic issues. They exchanged opinions on certain aspects of preparations for a visit by the Soviet foreign minister to Japan.

Radio on Soviet-Japanese Roundtable Conference
OW3110050688 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] MOSCOW NEWS, a Moscow weekly, carries an article by Deputy Chief Editor Yuriy Bandura on a private Soviet - Japanese roundtable conference held recently in Moscow. I would like to introduce part of the article.

MOSCOW NEWS Deputy Chief Editor Bandura writes the following:

I asked many participants at this conference if there was any difference from past conferences. Most of them answered that this was the most interesting when compared to past meetings, which have been held on 6 occasions. Their observations that the details of conference discussions were interesting indicate that Soviet society has newly and qualitatively changed under restructuring. Restructuring gave birth to the Soviet Government's Krasnoyarsk proposals in September of this year. These proposals drew particular attention from

conference participants. Restructuring also gave birth to the theory of diversified opinions on socialism in the Soviet Union. Thanks to this development, the Japanese and Soviet participants in the roundtable talks were able to shift from the habitual repetition of inflexible positions to sincere and heated discussions.

The so-called territories issue was also taken up at the conference. However, it seems to me that there was no serious difference between the conference participants, as there has been in the past.

Despite the territories issue, the participants in the conference were able to concentrate on the question of developing a healthy situation in the Asian and Pacific region, which is a common task for the people of the two countries. It appears that the two sides still have far to go in order to reach complete mutual understanding and find a consensus. However, there are many things in common between them. Is it possible, then, to narrow the difference of positions between the two sides to the point where the outcome of discussions at the conference can be put into practice? It is possible. Both sides need to make great efforts in order to realize this possibility. It is an immediate task for the conference participants to draw new and fresh forces into the movement for promoting good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Japan.

The conference was attended by almost the same persons as in the past. No marked change was seen in the lists of Soviet and Japanese attendants, who represented various social sectors. This marks a difference from the relations between the Soviet people and [word indistinct] in the West.

The article by MOSCOW NEWS Deputy Chief Editor Bandura then touches on the territorial issue. It says:

The Japanese participants brought up an old issue by asking the Soviet participants to clearly explain their position on the Japanese Government's demand for the return of the southern Kurile islands belonging to the Soviet Union. The demand for the return of the territories are made on a variety of bases. However, these bases are tenuous compared with the serious bases of the Soviet Union. Why do the Japanese people widely believe that the Soviet Union has no grounds to make a reasonable stand? Perhaps it is because of a long-standing and firmly-established Soviet position that the Soviet Union should not be dragged into discussions on this issue. This was a convenient position for us to take. Our conclusion is that this position has resulted in a Japanese belief that the Soviet Union is not fair.

Some forces in Japan that consider the normalization of Soviet - Japanese relations to be a political taboo desire that this groundless discontent should continue. For examp'e, the Japanese Foreign Ministry, in its report entitled "Foreign Policy in the 1980's," explained that it is very important to regard the territorial issue as unresolved because it will serve as a spiritual pillar of the Japanese people. This attitude stems from the thinking that the improvement of relations and easing of tensions with the Soviet Union will have an adverse impact on the unity of the Japanese people. If this issue is not openly discussed, it will only help those who are opposed to the promotion of good-neighborly relations between the Soviet Union and Japan.

'Much Work' Remains in Normalizing Japanese Ties

OW2910060988 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 20 Oct 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] On 19 October 1956, the Soviet Union and Japan signed a joint declaration on the restoration of normal diplomatic relations. Much preparation had been made prior to the restoration of ties. In fact, officials of the two countries began their talks as early as 1 June 1955, and soon reached settlement on such issues as concluding the two countries' belligerent state, repatriating Japanese prisoners of war, accepting Japan into UN organizations, concluding a commercial treaty, signing a fishing accord, and so forth.

However, because of the issue about the so-called northern territories, a treaty of peace and complete normalization of relations between the USSR and Japan was not signed. Since issues concerning the two countries' political relations were not completely resolved, bilateral ties in other areas have been affected.

It should be admitted that, during the past 3 decades and more, the 2 countries' bilateral relations, especially their economic relations, have not been able to develop to a very high level. Soviet trade with Japan, for example, constituted less than 1.55 percent of Japan's foreign trade. However, a miraculous trend has appeared recently. Border trade, including trade between Soviet border areas and Japan's Hokkaido, has been growing. Moreover, there have been proposals for developing new types of cooperation in the field of production, establishment of joint ventures, and scientific research. All these show that there is still large potential to be tapped in the development of Soviet-Japanese economic relations and trade.

It is also significant that exchanges between the two countries' parliamentarians and people in the academic, journalistic, cultural circles [words indistinct] have been expanding. Furthermore, such contacts have been regularized. For example, the sixth roundtable conference between representatives of the Soviet and Japanese social groups —a meeting which came to an end in Moscow a few days ago—discussed issues concerning the improvement of Soviet-Japanese good neighborliness and mutual understanding between the two peoples. All these are steps meant to establish normal ties between the two countries.

Nevertheless, there is still much work to be done in this area. There is yet to be a reliable mechanism governing political dialogue between the USSR and Japan. This is apparently an anomaly. It is obvious that, without a sound system governing Soviet-Japanese relations, the establishment of a solid system of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region is quite impossible, because the improvement of the two countries' goodneighborly relations is an important part of this system.

It should be pointed out that certain changes are taking place in the thinking of Japan. Soviet leader Gorbachev pointed out in his recent speech in Krasnoyarsk that there is still the foundation for big-stride development in Soviet-Japanese relations and mutual [word indistinct]. Gorbachev hoped that such positive factors could guide Soviet-Japanese relations to the track of normal development.

The reality of such a prospect appeared in the international conference on dialogues, peace, and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region—a conference which took place in Vladivostok in early October. During the unofficial and candid discussion of issues concerning the Asia and Pacific region, Japanese representatives expressed the willingness to conduct dialogue as attendants at a hearing, maintaining that only through promoting mutual understanding and removing obstacles can the two countries lead their relations out of their blind alley.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

'Extremists' Mount Missile Attacks in Kabul

LD0111102788 Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 1 TASS—The Afghan capital came under rocket bombardment from extremists once again. Twelve ground-to-ground missiles were fired into Kabul residential neighbourhoods today and yesterday. The barbarous action killed one person and injured 17. All of those suffered are women and children. The city of Mehtarlam, Laghman province, and several areas in Balkh Province also came under fire. Casualties among civilian population are reported. The bombardment destroyed tens of apartment houses.

Formations of the dire-hard opposition have intensified their actions in Kabul, Ghazni, Qandahar, Herat, Faryab and Balkh Provinces in the last days of October. In Faryab Province rebels from the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" group make attempts to capture the main security posts in the so-called green zone for a subsequent offensive on Meymaneh, the administrative center of the province. About 40 rockets, over 120 mines and grenades were fired at security posts from October 21 to 28. Ammunition and heavy arms are covertly shipped to the province. Rebels try to seal off the key routes along which food and fuel are delivered to Meymaneh and other areas of the province with a view to sparking discontent of the local population.

Most ferocious clashes between government troops and detachments of the opposition take place in Qandahar, Konduz, and Zabol provinces. An Iranian military adviser who was with a group of rebels was heavily wounded during one of the battles.

Foreign Press Endangers Burmese Stability

BK2910140788 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1030 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Radio Moscow Commentary: "What are the Anxieties of Burma's Neighbors?"]

[Text] According to the latest reports, Indian and Thai authorities do not intend to encourage Burmese opposition groups to cross over their respective boundary rivers, enter their countries, or allow these groups to use their territories. In this respect, a Radio Moscow commentator has presented the following views:

Burmese students gathered at the Burmese borders are not that numerous. What has been said above is mainly based on the students. Besides, smugglers and insurgents have been active in these areas for many years. If these facts are taken into account, it seems that this situation is not really worth talking about. Be that as it may, Thai and Indian border troops have been ordered to be especially vigilant. The Spokesmen for these respective areas have issued various statements.

What is causing them to be anxiously vigilant and prompting them to issue statements in this way? As it appears now, the Indian and Thai authorities seem to worry that activities by the Burmese extremists are endangering the process of stability in Burma, and that the Burmese exiles are like hooks which can trap Burma's neighbors into getting involved in Burma's internal problems.

Are there any causes for such worries? Yes, there are.

If reports on Burma by some foreign news agencies are perused, such conclusions can be understood. Nowadays, the focus of attention of these news agencies has shifted from Rangoon to these outlying areas. In listening to foreign broadcasts, one might have to conclude that most of Burma's important problems are being settled only in these areas. Be that as it may, one should examine whether a few thousand youths who have just learned to handle weapons are capable of fighting Defense Forces consisting of 180,000 men. Even if insurgents become simultaneously more active, these extremist students cannot be expected to succeed militarily. However, by inducing the military government to react, they are capable of making the prospects for holding general elections in Burma disappear.

Therefore, Burma's neighbors do not want to be dragged into these events. But then there are external elements who would like to cultivate the Burmese extremist groups. A variety of foreign organizations are showing

their special interest in the Burmese youths who are in the border areas. Even though representatives of the most distinguished opposition groups have condemned the activities of the extremists, which can disturb the process of a peaceful transition to the democratic system in Burma, such interest is still shown.

Many observers believe that the prospects for a peaceful transfer to democratic rule exist in Burma, though the Defense Forces can employ undemocratic means in establishing order in the country. Opposition parties are continuing to register. The WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY carried their political platforms in preparation for the elections.

It is true that one cannot say that all is going smoothly. A lot of problems do exist. However, can a new bloodbath be created again by pointing these problems out? Another question arises in this connection. What are the foreign advisers, who in the recent past screamed that Burma needs democracy most urgently, trying to do today? How do they comprehend the restoration of democracy in Burma? They advise that it is necessary to practise multiparty politics in Burma, that it is necessary to activate the Burmese economy, and that it is necessary to expand cooperation between Burma and other countries. Actually, the work programs of most of the political parties officially recognized by the military government have already included these points. Furthermore, Western representatives have said many times that only the government elected under the democratic general elections has the right to determine Burma's future. Opposition parties that do not support the extremists that went underground are working toward holding such an election. Some western circles are accusing the Burmese military government of being insincere. Sincerity, or otherwise, is to be judged by the actions taken. The military government itself has been announcing that it has no intention of holding on to power for long.

This question could be raised: Why will they not allow this government to carry out their responsibilities and to exit from the political stage as soon as possible? Even some Western observers are pointing out the need to instill a certain amount of order into the Burmese economy. They have emphasized that it is impossible for the people even to think about participating in the democratic process when they are preoccupied with how to fulfill their basic requirements for living. However, they are declaring an economic boycott instead of helping Burma solve such problems. Instead of drawing people's attention to the newly organized political parties, they are attempting to divert attention to those who are receiving training in civil war with external support after forming a separate government in the jungles.

The approach of the Western countries to events in Burma shows they are not interested in overcoming the current difficulty of Burma. On the contrary, they are only interested in prolonging and exacerbating the difficulty. This is a dangerous path.

Burma's neighbors did not overlook these dangers. Thailand and India have reasons to be cautious with respect to events in Burma. It is clear that exacerbation of the situation in Burma could lead to another spark of regional tension in Southeast Asia. Asia has already had numerous problems, and it is understandable that member countries in the region do not desire another spark of tension.

Diplomats Eject Newsmen After Press Criticism

PM0111092588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 88 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent A. Sheludko "Rejoinder": "When People Succumb to Ambition"]

[Text] Vientiane—What happened was this: The PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA correspondents accredited in Laos were unceremoniously ejected from the report and election meeting of Communists in the apparatus of the USSR economic adviser and trade mission. We were at the meeting with the knowledge of its organizers and made no secret of our presence. We were sent packing within seconds on a violent tide of administrative ambition on the part of officials in the meeting's presidium.

K. Melnik, secretary of the party committee of Soviet organizations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], displayed "initiative." He acted peremptorily, like a master for whom anything is permitted. The central press correspondents had to leave the hall.

This was no chance incident. The point is that some time ago PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA printed reports from Laos about the problems of trade and economic cooperation with the LPDR, and even reproached Soviet missions, which have made serious miscalculations in their work. Some people's ambitions began to be roused here. How is it possible, they said, for the activity of Soviet establishments abroad to be criticized?!

Let us recall what this is all about. On 13 May this year PRAVDA published an article entitled "Correlating Expenditure and Needs." It spoke of the need to increase the effectiveness of Soviet-Lao trade and economic and technical cooperation and pointed out shortcomings and omissions. It was clear that things had to be rectified.

An official response from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations signed by Deputy Minister Ye. Osadchuk (PRAVDA for 19 September this year) said: The USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations has examined the critical comments made in the article "Correlating Expenditure and Needs." It acknowledged that on the whole the article correctly raises the problem of increasing the effectiveness of Soviet-Lao trade, economic, and technical cooperation and rightly points out the shortcomings and omissions in this cooperation. The questions raised by the newspaper were also examined by the Soviet-Lao intergovernmental commission's working groups on cooperation in the sphere of transport

and construction. The ministry fully shares the opinion of the article's author on the need for targeted provision of material and technical resources for cooperative projects.

Moreover, the USSR trade mission in Laos was instructed to act upon, that is, to remove the sources of, the newspaper's critical comments.

But the missions did not specially discuss the PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA articles, as if our country's generally accepted norms do not extend to Soviet establishments in Laos. We realize that it is difficult to rebut fair comments, but some leaders are very unwilling to admit their omissions. Hence the undesirability of journalists' presence at the report and election party meeting, the sensitive reaction to criticism in the press, and the unfounded accusations charging the correspondents with incompetence and disinformation.

The restructuring of foreign economic subunits and their party organizations is no easy matter. In fact, it is very difficult, especially when ambitions, considerations of prestige, and the desire to protect oneself against criticism gain the upper hand. Comrades must be reminded that the time of "taboo zones and topics" has vanished into the past. It is only to be regretted that some officials in foreign economic departments and establishments would like to live in the old way, when it was fashionable to growl menacingly: "Don't poke your nose into other people's business!" Yet this is our common business. And intolerance of criticism is detrimental to it.

Indochinese Proposal on Cambodia Supported

BK2910051288 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1100 GMT 28 October 88

[Station observer commentary]

[Text] Worldwide broadcasting services commented in detail on the draft agreement on Cambodia put forward by the three countries in Indochina. It is true that the draft has not been thoroughly analyzed by people, but what is worth noting is that the general reactions are positive.

It is particularly worth noting that in the five-paragraph draft agreement, Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have presented areas that are the most realistic raised by the parties concerned in the search for a political solution to the problem of peacefully settling the complicated regional conflict.

The document was drafted with careful consideration for the viewpoints of all Cambodian parties. The crucial point of the agreement is that it appeals for a scrupulous respect for the Cambodian people's fundamental rights in preserving their independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and nonalignment. As everyone knows, those rights are being utilized by the Cambodian people; thus, at present, it is necessary to provide an international guarantee for their achievements. If the agreement is signed, it will certainly create this guarantee. It will prevent the possibility of the establishment of a military base on PRK territory, or the attraction of an alliance with the purpose of attacking a third country. It will also prohibit the use of Cambodian territory to conduct military activities against neighboring countries.

With the proposed draft agreement, the Indochinese fraternal countries successively broadened the agreement just reached by the concerned parties in Bogor, Indonesia. The major success at the Bogor meeting was that all of the participating sides—with the exception of the Pol Pot group—agreed on a linkage between the withdrawal of Vietnamese volunteer troops from Cambodia and the prevention of a return to power by Pol Pot. The SRV, LPDR, and PRK proposed a specific date by which the Vietnamese volunteer troops would be completely withdrawn from Cambodia. The date would also be the ultimate timeframe by which the cessation of all military supplies to the Pol Pot group would be observed.

The opposing Cambodian factions blocked settlement of the Cambodian problem by raising the question of setting up an international control commission to supervise and verify implementation of the agreement by each party.

It should be noted that this condition is also contained in the proposed draft agreement. Vietnam, Laos, and the PRK have agreed on the formation of said commission under the condition that it fulfill its role in accordance with the principle of vigorously respecting Cambodia's sovereignty. The commission should have, in conformity with the three fraternal Indochinese countries' proposal, the capability of monitoring and supervising truly free, democratic elections in Cambodia.

The proposed agreement for settlement of the international aspects of the Cambodian problem has been meticulously drafted. Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have proved once again their goodwill and efforts to restore peace in the region. The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have supported and will steadfastly continue to support the moves by the fraternal countries in Indochina toward resolving the Cambodian problem, thus creating an atmosphere of peace and stability in Southeast Asia.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Visit by Syrian Defense Minister

Arrives in Moscow

LD2910162688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow, 29 Oct (TASS)—Today, at the invitation of Army General Dmitriy Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR

defense minister, Corps General Mustafa Talas, member of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Ba'th Party leadership, deputy prime minister, deputy commander in chief of the armed forces and defense minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, arrived in Moscow on an official visit.

Damascus Radio Report on Arrival

JN2910214088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow—General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, arrived in Moscow this evening leading a delegation on an official visit to the USSR lasting several days. Gen Talas and the delegation were received at the airport by Army General Dmitriy Yazov, USSR minister of defense; Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, chief of the USSR General Staff of the Armed Forces; and other senior military commanders.

Yazov, Talas Discuss Military Ties

JN0111075888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow—Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov received General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, and members of the military delegation accompanying him last night. A session of talks was held between the two sides during which they discussed means of promoting relations of friendship between the armed forces in both countries and of reinforcing the Syrian Armed Forces' defensive capability.

Yakovlev, Yazov Meet Talas

LD0111112688 Moscow TASS in English 1041 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—Alexandr Yakovlev, member of the Politbureau and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, met today with Corps General Mustafa Talas, member of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, deputy prime minister, deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, who is staying in the Soviet Union on an official visit. The meeting was attended by General of the Army Dmitriy Yazov, alternate member of the Politbureau of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and USSR defense minister.

During a cordial and friendly conversation they discussed questions connected with the present-day international situation in the region and the world in general, as well as the need for consolidating and developing the positive trends that had emerged recently in international relations.

Afghan Prime Minister On 'Short Stay' in Tashkent

LD0111085088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Oct 31, (BAKHTAR)—Dr. Mohammad Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and his companions made a short stay in Tashkent on his way to New York.

Dr. M. Hasan Sharq and his companions were welcomed at Tashkent airport by Kadyrov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Uzbek SSR and other high-ranking officials of that republic.

Najibullah Denies Possible Retirement

LD3010142488 Moscow TASS in English 1341 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul October 30 TASS—Addressing a session of the National Council (parliament) on Saturday, President Najibullah of the Republic of Afghanistan came up with new initiatives aimed at an early end of the war in Afghanistan. Characterizing the situation that has formed in the country, he noted that the decade of the undeclared war caused much grief to the Afghan people. The national reconciliation policy, which was approved by the people, is the sole alternative to the bloodshed, the way toward the restoration of peace, the president stressed.

Alongside practical steps inside the country, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan adopted, in line with the national reconciliation policy, a more flexible and realistic stance on the international scene. The signing of the Geneva Agreements is the logic result of this policy, Najibullah stressed. Since the moment when they went into effect and until now the Afghan people and the international public have witnessed that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union honestly fulfill their obligations. At the same time, Pakistan and the United States do not implement the Geneva Agreements and, more, kindle war by their open interference.

Until now, the extremist part of the leadership of the armed opposition has failed to put forward a single constructive proposal for having the war terminated. They are only bent on the seizure of power without ceasing bloodshed and, moreover, increasing it. So, the presence of Soviet troops was not the main cause of war. It is hidden in a different matter: It is the encouragement by the Pakistani authorities of the armed opposition to carry on the war, their attempts to force their puppet regime on the Afghans.

The extremists should know that they will attain nothing by military means. The sole possible way to settle the problem is through political means rather than military. The president said that the existing political parties, organisations and armed groups faced two ways: Either they should cooperate in order to survive or die together.

Then the Afghan leader set out a host of new initiatives of the republic's government, expressing the hope for their support by the international community. To foster Afghanistan's status as a non-aligned and neutral state, he proposed convening a U.N.-sponsored international conference on Afghanistan, asking U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to conduct a preparatory work for its convocation.

This conference should address the issues of endorsing Afghanistan's neutral status, of a general international programme of economic and humanitarian assistance to the republic and creating a mechanism to realize it, of elaborating international guarantees for the defence of human rights in Afghanistan.

Mindful of the fact that a large amount of weapons have piled up in the country in ten years of war, the conference could discuss the question of the demilitarization of the Republic of Afghanistan. This is a question of both internal political and international nature and, if solved, it will allow the creation of an atmosphere of broad international cooperation.

The Republic of Afghanistan also intends to approach the U.N. Security Council with the request urgently to consider the question of the threat to the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Afghanistan, which emerged as a result of Pakistan's interference and its violation of the Geneva Agreements. The Afghan Government, which has in possession the incontestable facts of the violation of Afghan refugees' rights to the return to the homeland, calls upon the international community to force Pakistan to observe the respected documents of the Geneva Agreements.

We treat positively the idea of forming a coalition government on a broad and neutral basis on condition that it will be acceptable to all parties concerned, the president went on. This government should take, as priority political measures, steps to hold a conference on peace, ceasefire and verification of compliance with it and also on countering those forces which stand for continued war.

Touching on questions of the economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan. Najibullah drew attention to the government's readiness to cooperate extensively with the private sector and broaden economic ties with foreign countries, Western included. He expressed gratitude to the USSR leadership for the contribution of 600 million dollars to the U.N. fund for the recovery of the Afghan economy.

The president called upon the commanders of the armed formations of the opposition inside the country to take part in the administration of the state and invited them for one more time to the negotiating table. He urged Afghan refugees to return to the homeland so as not to allow themselves to be used as cannon-fire reserve for the extremists.

Speaking about rumours regarding his possible retirement from the post of the president, Najibullah strongly dismissed them, stating that he would never abandon the work for peace and security.

We will be able to take Afghanistan and its people out of war and dislocation only along the lines of the unity and cohesion of all patriotic forces whatever their political views, national and trible differences.

Further on Denial

LD2910201188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Excerpts] The second session of the National Assembly, Afghanistan's parliament, is being held in Kabul. Our correspondent, Ada Petrova reports.

[Petrova] [passage omitted] Addressing the session today President Najibullah said: Afghans face two paths at present. To achieve peace they must either cooperate in order to survive, or die together. In connection with this the republic's government is asking the UN Security Council to discuss urgently the threat to Afghanistan's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, and to call on the Government of Pakistan to observe the Geneva agreements with regard to the refugees.

President Najibullah proposed that an international conference on Afghanistan be convened under UN auspices. He expressed the gratitude of the people and the government to the party and state leadership of the USSR for $600 million donated to the special UN fund for the restoration of the country's economy.

The president appealed once again to the commanders of the armed formations operating within the country to start talks, as well as calling on clergymen, young people, Afghan Army servicemen, and every compatriot to use all their efforts to bring the country nearer to peace.

Rumors that I shall resign are being spread about, the president said. I shall never give up the struggle for peace and security for my people. Our path is clear and just. I shall not spare my life for the happiness of the people. Only through the unity of cohesion of all national and patriotic forces will we be able to take Afghanistan and its people away from war and ruin.

Najibullah's 19 October PDPA Plenum Speech Noted

PM2810150388 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Oct 88 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Najibullah Report"]

[Text] Kabul, 25 Oct—HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR, the PDPA Central Committee organ, carried an abridged version of the report given by Najibullah, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, at the Central Committee plenum held 19 October.

The general secretary dwelt on the positive elements in the activity of the party and state this year. He noted that a Loya Jirga has taken place, elections to the National Council—the republic's parliament—have been held, the Geneva agreements signed, and the first phase of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan completed. All this, Najibullah stressed, has been done in accordance with the national reconciliation policy.

The USSR has given Afghanistan great economic aid. The entire world has had an opportunity to see that the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan are precisely fulfilling the terms of the Geneva agreements and the Soviet troop withdrawal is proceeding strictly according to schedule.

Dwelling on the internal situation, the speaker stressed that the last 4 months have been complex for the country's armed forces, which have been forced to carry out defensive operations throughout Afghan territory and ensure enterprises' normal working.

Following the Soviet troop withdrawal we have taken the requisite steps to ensure cities' safety and have done a great deal to boost garrisons' defense capability. We have done and are continuing to do all this. At the same time there have been too many empty promises and an underestimation of the enemy. We now need to soberly assess the situation that has taken shape and take the requisite military and political steps.

The die-hard opposition is still using the language of bullets with us. But if it is trying to foist a war on us, we must foist reconciliation on it. Struggle for a cease-fire throughout the country's territory, broadening contacts with the opposition at all levels both within Afghanistan and also abroad, uniting all national and patriotic forces under the reconciliation banner, observing the Geneva accords, and helping to stabilize the situation by political methods are still the principles of reconciliation.

Najibullah also advocated setting up a government on a broad coalition basis involving all political forces, which could enlist all sides in dialogue, in the convocation of a peace conference for a cease-fire, and the elaboration of a mechanism to monitor observance of the cease-fire.

Our military doctrine is purely defensive, the speaker said. In the course of discussions, party members have advocated all manner of ways to promote the country's defense. This is a natural decision for we must defend the motherland. Najibullah announced that there are state, party, and military organs in every provincial center responsible for defense and they have an adequate quantity of weapons at their disposal. It has been decided to send special commissions there with emergency powers to ensure the security of transport communications, especially the Hayraton-Salang-Kabul highways.

The main defense task, Najibullah said, falls on our armed forces with their trained soldiers and officers and sophisticated weapons. They number 500,000 men, mainly fulfilling guard and defense functions.

The report devoted considerable attention to the situation that has taken shape in the PDPA as a result of the fractional activity of certain groupings. The PDPA Central Committee general secretary stressed the need for unity in the party ranks as a vitally important element of PDPA activity.

TASS on Security Situation in Afghanistan

LD2910121688 Moscow TASS in English 1153 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul October 29 TASS—Fighting between government troops and formations of extremists are continued in eastern Afghanistan. Rebels lost up to 50 people killed or wounded as a result of the successful operations of army units in Seyyed Karam and Zurmat districts and also in the environs of the city of Gardeyz, the administrative center of Paktia Province. The enemy left three recoiless guns, an anti-aircraft highland installation and a large amount of firearms and ammunition in the battle field.

Security bodies staff discovered and rendered harmless several explosive devices placed by extremists in Chaparhar settlement, Nangarhar Province, BAKHTAR news agency reported.

Four people were killed in a clash between armed groups of supporters of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and Rabbani.

Eight hundred and forty people returned to the homeland from Iran and Pakistan the other day.

At rallies and meetings held across the country now representatives of various segments of the Afghan population express all-round support for the course of national reconciliation and the proposal which the Afghan leadership made to influencial Moslem quarters for giving assistance in fostering a constructive dialogue with the opposition. Such meetings were already held in Gardeyz, Kabul and several other cities.

Situation in Asadabad City Deteriorates

LD2810123088 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Kabul October 28 TASS—The situation has dramatically deteriorated in Asadabad, administrative centre of the province of Konarha, after the withdrawal from there of units of the Afghan army in accordance with the decision of the Afghan leadership on the redeployment of troops from border areas to some central areas of the country. Opposition units entered the city, the BAKHTAR news agency reported.

BAKHTAR pointed out with reference to witness accounts that public and economic life was fully disorganized in Asadabad. Rebels are plundering private shops and public institutions, a local electric power plant was destroyed, supports of the electric power line were blown up. The city's archive which contained documents of local residents proving their ownership of real estate was destroyed.

The situation is aggravated by the struggle for power of various opposition groups. About every detachment of those that captured the city claims the majority of seats in the "council" which, according to plans of the opposition, is to be the supreme body of power in Konarha.

The situation continues to be complicated in Paktia, another eastern province. Some 400 rockets were fired in the past two days at Gardeyz, its administrative centre. The shelling resulted in the loss of life among the civilian population. 57 buildings were damaged.

Army units staged an operation aimed at eliminating armed opposition groups in the area of Gardeyz. Some 80 extremists were killed and wounded. A joint jirgah of Paktia tribes adopted a resolution on the establishment of contacts with commanders of the armed anti-government groups operating in the province for the purpose of conveying to them a proposal of President Najibullah of Afghanistan on holding talks in Saudi Arabia.

Combat operations were staged Wednesday and Thursday in various parts of the provinces of Qandahar, Nangarhar, Helmand and Konduz. The oposition losses account for 150 men.

An armed group with a strength of 27 went over to the side of the government in Sar-e Pol province.

The Foreign Ministry of Afghanistan handed in to the U.N. mission in Kabul the 108th note dealing with the facts of violation of Geneva accords by Pakistan.

Commentary Suggests Demilitarizing Afghanistan

LD3010213188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Commentary By Boris Andrianov]

[Text] The new initiatives set forth by President Najibullah represent further development of the consistent and realistic plan for establishing peace on Afghan soil. What then is their main essence? The republic's government proposes convening an international conference on Afghanistan under the aegis of the United Nations. Its aims are clearly defined. First and foremost, it is intended to register Afghanistan's status as a nonaligned and neutral state. At the same time, it is proposed that the participants of this forum consider issues concerning a joint international program for rendering aid to the republic in the economic and humanitarian spheres and the creation of mechanisms to put this into practice and also the elaboration of international guarantees for protecting human rights in Afghanistan.

All of these problems have acquired exceptional topicality in a country where 10 years of undeclared war has brought much grief to the Afghan people and has inflicted serious damage on the national economy. As far as human rights are concerned, how can one speak about these seriously at the moment, when the violence of the armed opposition continues the pointless spilling of blood?

Over a decade of war, weaponry of the most varied types has been accumulated in the country. One could hardly refute that such a circumstance is one of the negative factors hampering a political settlement in Afghanistan. Hence, at the proposed conference it may be possible to discuss the demilitarization of the Republic of Afghanistan.

To be specific, we should probably be talking about gathering in all the weapons there and giving them back to the countries which produced them. I agree that such a solution to the problem may well seem unusual, but that by no means indicates that it looks unrealistic. After all, one must bear in mind that such an issue has not just an internal political aspect, but also an international one. And the solution of it is of much importance not just for Afghanistan since it would make it possible to create in this part of Asia an atmosphere of broad international cooperation, given the appropriate reliable international guarantees, of course.

While presenting the new initiatives, President Najibullah said that the Republic of Afghanistan also expects to ask the UN Security Council to examine urgently the threat to the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Afghanistan. Such a threat has come about as a result of Pakistan's interference and the violation of the Geneva agreements. In particular, the Afghan Governemnt is in possession of indisputable evidence which attests to the violation of the rights of Afghan refugees to return home, and for that reason it is appealing to the international organizations to force Pakistan to observe the relevant documents of the Geneva agreements.

There is no question that the present situation in Afghanistan is complicated. But even in such conditions, its state authorities continue to try and achieve calm in the country. This is once again confirmed by the fresh initiatives presented by President Najibullah.

'Positive Outlook' for Iran-Iraq Talks

NC0111115588 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Aleksandr Pogodin commentary]

[Text] What is the outlook for the Iran-Iraq talks on solving their differences? Today is the 1st day of the talks in Geneva and our commentator Aleksandr Pogodin

believes that, despite the complicated situation, there is sufficient reason for a positive outlook. Before listing the positive elements, it is necessary to refer to the cease-fire and to say that, despite some violations of the cease-fire agreement, the two sides have been observing the agreement for more than 2 months now. Fortunately, the concern that the cease-fire would not last long proved wrong. Thus, we are witnessing the interest felt by both sides to end this bloody conflict. And in view of the many years of the war and the hostility and mistrust that accumulated during it, this interest is of (?special) significance. The fact that both countries support Security Council Resolution 598, which is a plan for solving the problem, is also of significance, as is the exchange of prisoners of war. This last step should obviously be taken as a manifestation of the two sides' good will.

Of course, when making an assessment one should not forget that the current situation continues to be unsteady, like in the past. At some of the points along the cease-fire line, the distance between the two forces is not more than a few meters. The threat of an explosion has therefore not yet been removed and there is no need yet to speak about the proximity of the Iran-Iraq stands in practically all problems. Under such conditions, one cannot be hopeful of rapid progress in the talks.

Our commentator then writes: We believe that many things now depend on the successful continuation of the UN's peace role and on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who has gone to Geneva to participate in the first phase of the new round of talks. The secretary general believes that self-restraint and patience are very necessary now and that the two sides should move step-by-step toward a full resolution of the conflict. Perez de Cuellar also believes that an agreement on the withdrawal of the two sides' forces to recognized international borders is the most practical of possibilities. This will allow the existing tension to be overcome and will pave the way toward implementing the other decisions of the UN Security Council resolution.

Aleksandr Pogodin concludes: I think that all these facts allow us to be hopeful that political wisdom and determination will lead to a conclusion of the extremely dangerous conflict in the Persian Gulf.

U.S. 'Propaganda' Supports Militarist 'Hysteria'

NC2810171488 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 27 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] When the destroyer "Vincennes" returned to San Diego port on the U.S. Pacific coast from the Persian Gulf, the crew that fired a missile and downed an Iranian passenger plane were given a spectacular welcome. According to the U.S. mass media, this welcome was to help keep the "Vincennes" crew from feeling guilty about killing 300 civilians who were on board the plane. One can argue whether the officers and the sailors on board this destroyer felt guilty over their act or not. We will try to answer some questions that worry many of our listeners.

What lesson did the initiators of U.S. policy learn from the tragedy that occurred over the Hormuz Strait? Does Washington intend to do its best to prevent the repetition of similar tragedies?

As we know, Pentagon experts have closely studied the reasons for this tragedy. The outcome of their studies was that the Iranian plane was downed because of a mistake made by the "Vincennes" crew in an emergency situation. However, those who analyzed the tragedy and compiled the Pentagon report did not say anything about the fact that it was the "Vincennes" itself that created such an emergency situation thousands of miles from U.S. shores. They did not doubt in the least that the presence of the U.S. Navy was justified in order to fulfill suppressive objectives in a foreign area. Incidentally, however, it is these policies that lead to tragedies and result in the loss of human life and the destruction of nations that do not give in to the U.S. diktat.

Between July 1987 and August 1988 more than 12 armed clashes, some with tragic consequences, took place between the U.S. Navy and Iran in the Persian Gulf. Among the victims of the U.S. policy of diktat in the seas and oceans, one should mention the seven crew members of the missile-carrier "Stark," which was mistakenly hit by an Iranian [as heard] missile.

Meanwhile, the only lesson that the U.S. militarists have learned from these regretful incidents is the completion of programs and the implementation of war operations outside U.S. borders with the minimum loss to their forces and installations. For this reason, Pentagon experts advise modernizing weapons and equipping the U.S. fleet with a radar system in order to (?warn) the crew of a warship in an emergency situation.

Obviously such advice does not force the U.S. militarists to learn a lesson from the Pentagon's adventurism outside U.S. borders. On the contrary, such advice prevents such lessons from being learned. There is no doubt that, despite the allegations by the U.S. mass media, the crew of the "Vincennes" do not suffer from guilty consciences at all over the downing of the Iranian passenger plane. The commander of the ship, Captain William Rodgers, stated that he does not doubt that he was right in ordering the downing of the Iranian plane. He even considered his criminal decision as tantamount to a legal step to avenge the deaths that had occurred on board the "Stark." Captain (Ted) [name indistinct] who was on the "Vincennes" for more than 1 week, stated that he did not know even one sailor who felt remorse over the Iranian passenger plane tragedy.

Actually, U.S. propaganda is doing its best to prevent the chauvinistic hysteria of the U.S. militarists from dying down, and also prevent a major lesson from being learned from the Pentagon's adventures overseas. This lesson is that the seeds of death and destruction in various parts of the earth lead to the isolation of the United States in the civilized world.

Congratulations Exchanged With YAR Premier

PM2810151988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Exchange of Cables"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has sent congratulations to Prime Minister 'A.A. 'Abd al-Ghani of the Yemen Arab Republic in connection with the 26th anniversary of the 1962 September Revolution. The cable expresses confidence that multifaceted Soviet-North Yemeni relations will continue to develop to the mutual benefit of the peoples of the USSR and the Yemen Arab Republic and in the interests of safeguarding peace and security in the Near East and throughout the world.

In the reply cable the prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic expresses sincere gratitude for the congratulations, wishes the friendly Soviet people further success along the path of progress, and expresses the hope that relations between the Yemen Arab Republic and the Soviet Union will flourish for the good of our peoples and countries.

Sub-Saharan Africa

RSA Uses 'Terror' in Anti-SWAPO Campaign

MB2910095088 Moscow in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] The Pretoria regime is clearly concerned with the real perspective of a power transfer in Namibia to the South-West Africa People's Organization, SWAPO, if free elections are held there. The occupational parties are massively conditioning the Namibians in a bid to discredit SWAPO, which has been recognized by the world community as the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people. Their aim is to raise the election (?chances) for the proper political groupings and within the so-called transitional government, if elections were held in keeping with Resolution 435 of the United Nations Security Council. Many means of bribing and blackmailing up to the use of force are being resorted to for the sake of this. All over the country, various fake films about SWAPO are shown on the cinema. South African agents [words indistinct] to the recently exposed [words indistinct] representatives of this organization had made statements to sling mud on it. The leaders resort to (?throwing) terror against the Namibians who support the real freedom fighters.

A few days ago, three school teachers were arrested in Oshakati for wearing t-shirts with the SWAPO emblem in the classroom. Three other teachers believed to sympathize with SWAPO were cruelly beaten by thugs from the special unit-Koevoet.

Commentaries View Situation in South Africa

RSA, U.S. Impede Solution

LD2510230088 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1830 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Sergey Pravdin commentary]

[Text] As is clear from a UPI report from Washington, the U.S. Administration is taking measures to impede the process of a peaceful settlement in southern Africa. Sergey Pravdin is at the microphone.

[Pravdin] The talks between the four sides—Angola, the Republic of South Africa [RSA], Cuba, and the United States—regarding a peaceful settlement in the south of Africa, as is known, were quite successful. The few meetings behind closed doors which took place enabled the representatives of their participants, including Angola, Cuba and even of the United States itself, to issue statements saying that only a few more issues remain to be resolved for the establishment of peace in the region. Such a course of events was undoubtedly also assisted by the resolutions and other documents on Namibia which had been formulated precisely by the United Nations.

However, at first the RSA racist regime stated its intention of putting off until next year the previously agreed date for the start of the fulfillment of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia providing in particular for the withdrawal of RSA troops from this unlawfully occupied territory. Prime Minister Botha cited the impossibility which had allegedly arisen of proceeding toward the decolonization of Namibia on the previously agreed deadline and also South Africa's unwillingness to leave its loyal ally, UNITA, without military assistance.

A similar statement has now also been made by a U.S. State Department spokesman. What is the reason for such unanimity? Neither Pretoria nor Washington are making a great secret of this: The racists and their protectors are obviously dissatisfied that during the talks Angola and Cuba did not agree to a unilateral concession and withdraw at once Cuban troops from Angolan territory, where they are deployed at the invitation of the Angolan Government precisely to give assistance in the struggle against the UNITA bands.

The RSA and the United States have obviously decided to resort to direct pressure on Angola and Cuba, even though it is well known that such attempts also previously did not yield the desired result. Nor will they yield such a result now. Evidence of this can also be found in

the reaction of the world community and in particular of the African countries to the dangerous maneuvers of the RSA and the United States round Southwest Africa. These maneuvers were sharply condemned by the Southwest African People's Organization—SWAPO—the government of Zimbabwe, and many other politicians and public figures. As Nyerere, chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania, stressed: All countries of the African continent must sever all ties with the racist regime.

'Last Stages' of Election

MB2610161488 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa 1830 GMT 25 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On 26 October, South Africa will be in the last stages of its municipal elections, a current topic whose results will be of interest in the country as well as in the region as a whole. The elections raise several questions, and many analysts agree the main issue is how the Conservative Party performs against the National Party in white voting, and how many blacks actually take part in the elections. Whatever the answers, this will have little impact on the changes needed in the country and the region as a whole.

How could such an election be in the interest of blacks? The government is anxious to have as many blacks as possible take part in the municipal elections, perhaps feeling their numbers might demonstrate black self-determination and a march towards black majority rule. Then again, only 10 percent of blacks are allowed to take part in the elections, and none of the candidates standing in black municipalities are from antiapartheid organizations. In light of this, most who will vote will be those who accept the government's unacceptable reform package. President Botha has indicated to the NP that he has no intention of holding talks on majority rule, and seems still to believe that the NP's apartheid foundation is firm.

Even if the CP gains an advantage in the elections over the NP, this would not give it a mandate to rule South Africa, but merely indicated the clout it might have in the 1990 parliamentary elections, and whether it might take power. The CP will not even hear of reform and is fighting government attempts to defuse the situation in the country.

So what might follow these elections? The CP even now seems to be gaining so much clout over the NP that it is emboldened to oppose Pretoria's reported intention to pull out of Namibia. We have no wish to dissect President Botha's intentions in Namibia, and his plans to give Namibia its freedom, but we must say we see the situation in its right perspective. So far, President Botha has not been able to contain the CP menace. Following the elections, Botha may refuse to continue the process towards change and revert to the thinking of the ultra-right. At any rate, Pretoria seems to be preparing for just that, even now, as observed by SWAPO, which has noted Pretoria's equivocation on the Namibian question. So it is possible that the CP might yet succeed in keeping things in South Africa as they are, and stalling progress.

A.L.Adamishin Meets Officials in Africa

Holds Talks in Tanzania

PM2410133788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "Exchange of Opinions"]

[Text] A.L. Adamishin, USSR deputy foreign minister, who is in Dar es Salaam as a guest of the Tanzanian Government, has had a thorough exchange of opinions with Tanzanian Foreign Minister B. Mkapa. The sides confirmed the coincidence or proximity of USSR and Tanzanian positions on the most topical international problems and stressed the need for common efforts to form an all-embracing system of international peace and security and boost the effectiveness of the United Nations.

Considerable attention was devoted to questions of solving conflict and crisis situations. The sides expressed support for the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan and the need for all sides to consistently implement the accords secured in Geneva.

The USSR and Tanzania favor the convocation of an international conference on a settlement in the Near East as the most effective and realistic way of resolving the problem.

During the discussion of the situation in southern Africa, it was pointed out that the successful completion of talks on a just settlement in Namibia—which is what the USSR and Tanzania are striving for—could help to radically change the entire situation in the southern Africa region.

It was noted that friendly Soviet-Tanzanian relations, which have been developing stably for a number of years, serve the two countries' interests. The Soviet side stressed the immutability of the USSR's principled course of supporting progressive forces and national liberation movements.

A.L. Adamishin also met with S. Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization.

Meets Officials in Kenya

LD2810230688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0740 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Nairobi, 28 Oct (TASS)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister A.L. Adamishin has met with C. Obure, Kenyan assistant foreign minister, and other senior ministry

officials here. During these meetings, an exchange of views took place on the problem of ensuring peace and comprehensive security and also on matters of settling conflicts in the Horn of Africa and in southern Africa.

Considerable similarity in the approaches of the Soviet Union and Kenya to these problems was noted. It was said on both sides that there are opportunities for the gradual expansion and development of friendly ties between the USSR and Kenya.

East Europe

CSSR's Adamec Begins Working Visit 31 Oct

Met by Ryzhkov

LD3110180488 Moscow TASS in English 1716 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—Member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, chairman of the Government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Ladislav Adamec arrived in Moscow for a brief working visit today.

He was met at the airport by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Ryzhkov, and by other officials.

Begins Talks With Ryzhkov

LD0111124988 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—Soviet-Czechoslovak talks started in the Kremlin today. They are being held by Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the Politbureau of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and Ladislav Adamec, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and chairman of the Czechoslovak Government.

The head of the Czechoslovak Government arrived in the Soviet Union Monday for a short working visit.

Meets With Gorbachev

LD0111125388 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had a conversation in the Kremlin today with Czechoslovak Prime Minister Ladislav Adamec.

In the focus of their attention were issues of the further all-round deepening of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations.

The head of the Czechoslovak Government arrived in the Soviet Union on Monday for a brief working visit.

Prague CPCZ Delegation Arrives in Moscow

LD3110095288 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0300 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The delegation of the Prague CPCZ municipal committee led by Miroslav Stepan, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chief secretary of the Prague municipal committee, arrived in Moscow to begin an official working visit.

The delegation was welcomed by Yuriy Prokopyev, secretary of the Moscow municipal committee, and other official representatives at the Moscow airport.

Zaykov, Visitor Discuss Restructuring

LD3110222488 Prague CTK in English 1608 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow Oct 31 (CTK correspondent)—Head secretary of the Prague city committee of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Miroslav Stepan held talks here today with First Secretary of the Moscow City Communist Party Committee Lev Zaykov.

The two representatives focused on the restructuring process in their countries and the development of democratization and party work in new conditions. They also discussed the preparation of Days of Prague in Moscow aimed at deepening further cooperation between the two capitals.

Shevardnadze Talks With Hungary's Grosz

LD2910112588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1040 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Budapest, 29 Oct (TASS)—K. Grosz, general secretary of the MSZMP and chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, has met with E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister.

Having sincerely thanked Shevardnadze for the friendly greetings conveyed to him from M.S. Gorbachev, the Hungarian leader spoke about implementing the decisions of the all-Hungary party conference, about the political situation in the country, and about its social and economic development at the present state of socialist construction.

In turn, the Soviet minister spoke about the reform of the USSR political system being carried out in implementing the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and in coordinating the economic and social aspects of restructuring.

An exchange of opinions took place on key international problems and on Soviet-Hungarian relations. E.A. Shevardnadze informed K. Grosz about the results of the talks between M.S. Gorbachev and FRG Chancellor H. Kohl.

During the conversation, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, a wide range of questions of mutual interest was discussed.

Honecker Briefed on Kohl Moscow Talks

LD3110092588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] GDR leader Erich Honecker on Sunday received Aleksandr Bondarenko, head of the third European section of the USSR Foreign Ministry and envoy of the CPSU general secretary and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The Soviet representative informed Honecker about the results of the visit to the USSR by FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Honecker stressed that the Moscow talks were significant for the cause of peace and detente in Europe, and gave a high appraisal of the work conducted by the Soviet leadership during the visit by the West German politician. That work, he said, fully corresponds with the joint position of the socialist countries.

SFRY's Dizdarevic Notes Soviet Debt

LD2910133988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] The situation in Yugoslavia is the subject of close attention by all mass media. AFP reports on President Didzdarevic's address to the leadership of the republic. This meeting took place in Belgrade and was devoted to the economy. Dizdarevic reported that 1988 was marked by a drop in the main economic indices and by high inflation. Inflation exceeded 200 percent. This situation threatens the economic reform which is aimed at encouraging private enterprises and foreign capital investments. Enumerating the causes behind the very high inflation, Dizdarevic mentioned in particular the USSR's debt to Yugoslavia, which according to him amounts to $1.7 billion.

LCY Presidium Discusses Party Plenums

LD2810220588 Moscow TASS in English 1607 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] Belgrade October 28 TASS—Communists and the public of Yugoslavia have regarded the results of the recent 17th and 18th plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia as the development of a political line of the 13th congress and a conference of the League of Communists, and approved them. This was stated at a session of the Presidium of the Central Comittee of the League of Communists held here.

The supreme party body pointed out the need for Communists and working people to display creative initiative for the purpose of quickly and consistently putting into practice the planned reforms of the economic and political system, as well as the transformation of the League of Communists.

It was pointed out at the session that the past two plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the League of Communists had promoted the overcoming of differences in the views on some problems, which was confirmed by the coordination in the Federal Assembly of the stands of the republics and regions with regard to amendments to the Constitution of Yugoslavia.

It was reported at the session that a concept of preparations for the 14th Congress of the League of Communists would be soon put forward. In accordance with resolutions of the 17th plenary meeting personnel changes will be made in the Central Committee and its Presidium, as well as in the leadership of the republican, regional and communal party organizations.

The session stated that the normalization of the situation in Kosovo was the priority task of the whole country calling for an urgent comprehensive and effective solution. The session pointed out as well the extreme importance of the implementation of changes in the Constitution of Serbia in the set period of time.

After hearing a report of Marko Orlandic, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists, on rallies in Kosovo the Presidium went on record in favour of immediately fulfilling the task outlined by the 17th plenary meeting for bringing the situation there back to normal.

The Presidium decided to start immediately preparations for the 19th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the League of Communists scheduled for November. It will discuss the ideological and political aspects of the economic reform.

PRAVDA on Results of LCY Plenums

PM2610084588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Oct 88 Second Edition p 5

[Correspondent Yevgeniy Fadeyev dispatch under the rubric "Correspondent Comments": "Search for Solutions"]

[Text] Belgrade—Two LCY Central Committee plenums—the 17th and 18th—have been held in succession in Yugoslavia. This fact in itself characterizes the difficult situation that has taken shape in the country, where passions are now seething, opinions are clashing, and various viewpoints and means of escaping from the complex situation are being put forward.

Communists and the broad SFRY public advocate rapidly overcoming the waverings and indecision and setting about really removing the causes that have led the country to its present difficult position.

It was noted at the plenums that reform will have to be implemented in three fields—the economy, the political system, and within the party. This involves a whole complex of measures whereby it is planned to overcome the crisis phenomena.

People in the SFRY believe it is necessary to be rid of ideological and theoretical dogmas and erroneous decisions. Renewing socialism entails ridding it of its old, cumbersome outer trappings. It was pointed out at the plenums that this must be tackled urgently without waiting for "better times." Many speeches, of course, boiled down to a common idea—that the responsibility of the LCY and every party member for resolving tasks of vital importance for society must be sharply increased.

As is well known, the 17th LCY Central Committee Plenum set up a special commission for implementing transformations within the LCY. What is its aim? To critically analyze the practical work of the party, improve the forms and methods of its activity, and ascertain why program and statute demands are not being fully implemented. The tasks of this commission also include the examination of questions linked with the need to strengthen the LCY, democratize its cadre policy, and improve its elected organs. Cadre changes have been effected within the party leadership. The plenum approved the resignation of LCY Central Committee Presidium members B. Krunic, M. Renovica, K. Siroka, and F. Setinc, and also satisfied B. Krunic's request to be relieved of his duties as member of the LCY Central Committee.

A decision has been adopted to set up a working group which will—at the suggestion of the League of Communists of Serbia Central Committee—examine the question of the responsibility of the leaders of the Kosovo Autonomous Province A. Vlasi, K. Siroka, and S. Dolasevic and their expulsion from the LCY Central Committee.

At the initiative of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, the Central Committee held a secret ballot and passed a vote of confidence in the LCY Central Committee Presidium as a whole and each of its members individually, including the chairman and secretary of the LCY Central Committee Presidium. According to the results, a vote of confidence was passed on all members of the LCY Central Committee Presidium apart from D. Ckrebic. Ckrebic asked the plenum to relieve him of his duties as member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium.

As for the 18th plenum, a document was adopted there determining the tasks of SFRY Communists with regard to the implementation of constitutional changes. The press here points out that "there were still insuperable differences on certain problems of the political system and relations within the federation" in connection with this question.

Thus, the LCY and Yugoslav society are today persistently seeking solutions to the most important problems related to the party and the people. Many commentaries by the country's mass media stressed this.

"Profound transformations must be implemented within the LCY in order for the party to continue in the future to be the repository of the creative charge."

These words are from POLITIKA.

TASS on Polish Decision To Close Shipyard

LD0111100488 Moscow TASS in English 0949 GMT 1 Nov 88

[Text] Warsaw November 1 TASS—On the proposal of the minister of industry the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic passed a decision to close the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk.

The enterprise will formally cease its existence on December 1, 1988. Since this date the process of its liquidation will begin.

A report of the Polish Government press bureau points out that the reason behind this decision is the need to improve the use of the yard's production assets and refine the structure of the entire shipbuilding industry. The enterprise has operated at a loss in recent years although heavy subsidies were set aside to it from the state budget.

This measure is meant to provide for the entire industry better opportunities for advancement, through the reshaping of its structure, toward higher worker productivity, increased profit and cost-effectiveness. Government-operating subsidies for shipbuilding will be reduced or withdrawn altogether. Before making the decision to close the yard, the government elaborated a programme to ensure the work collective's interests, which guarantees to all of its members an opportunity for utilizing in a fuller measure their expertise and skills and also receiving equal or even better wages.

A considerable part of machines and equipment will be turned over to allied shipbuilding enterpises which will also employ part of the workers. The rest equipment will be used to organise the production of other types of products necessary for the countryside, the domestic market and environmental protection.

The closing of the Gdansk shipyard is linked not only with the need for a proper development of shipbuilding but also with fundamental changes in the economic policy, which are effected by the country's new government. They aim at improving the economy, specifically through liquidating unprofitable and low-efficiency enterprises. The Ministry of Industry already drew up a list of enterprises, including large ones, whose future is under study now.

The decision by the Minister of Industry Mieczyslaw Wilczek to halve the administrative apparatus of the ministry headed by him runs in the same vein. The funds thus saved will go to raise wages and modernize the ministry's equipment. Simultaneously, the minister decreed to trim by 40 per cent the employment rolls of the coal and power engineering associations. The funds saved as a result of this measure will be funnelled into improving the social and living conditions of the workers employed in the mining and power engineering industries who live in worker hostels.

Polish Agriculture Official on Joint Enterprises
PM0111092788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Oct 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 27 October V.S. Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, received E. Brzostowski, Polish deputy minister of agriculture, forestry, and food industries and general director of the "Iglopol" agro-industrial combine.

During the conversation they discussed specific questions concerning the creation of joint enterprises, the organization of production on the basis of production sharing, and other aspects of the expansion of cooperation in the sphere of agro-industrial production.

Solovyev Discusses Leningrad-Plovdiv Ties
PM2610105188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Oct 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Official Reports"]

[Text] Plovdiv, 22 Oct—The processes of social renewal taking place in the USSR and Bulgaria are creating the necessary preconditions for more effective all-around cooperation between Leningrad and Plovdiv. That is one of the main conclusions drawn during the visit to this Bulgarian city by a Leningrad Obkom delegation headed by Yu.F. Solovyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom.

The protocol on the results of the delegation's visit signed here today stresses that as a result of the work done in the past 2 years, considerable progress has been made in establishing direct scientific and production ties between the two cities. At the same time the two regions' potential and the opportunities existing in this sphere are still far from exhausted. The Leningrad Obkom and the Plovdiv BCP Obkom, the document points out, will continue to pay paramount attention to this important area of joint work and create favorable conditions for the development of direct ties between the two cities' enterprises and organizations. The sides deemed it necessary to examine the question of creating a joint consultancy bureau based on economic accountability for giving specific assistance to cooperating labor collectives in the sister oblasts and selecting cadres. The protocol also notes measures on the deepening of ties between party, trade union, and social organizations, organs of people's power, and the mass media. The implementation of these accords should increase the effectiveness of cooperation at a regional level and ensure the broader participation of the Leningrad and Plovdiv working people in the processes of international cooperation.

The delegation left for home the same day.

It was seen off at the airport by P. Pachov, first secretary of Plovdiv Obkom, and other officials.

West Europe

Dobrynin, Zagladin Meet With UK Delegation
LD3110230688 Moscow TASS in English 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow November 1 TASS—Members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, led by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Dobrynin, had a meeting today with a delegation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons of British Parliament, led by the committee chairman David Howell.

A substantive exchange of opinions on a broad range of topical international problems was held in the course of an interested and frank conversation. Priority attention was paid ito the state of affairs of the European Continent, East-West relations, their evolution under the impact of perestroyka in the USSR and an overall improvement in the international situation.

The British MPs learned in detail about the key provisions of the concept of the new political thinking the translation of which into practical deeds made it possible to find in a brief period of time solution of many complex issues of world politics, to make a headway in materializing the idea of a comprehensive system of international security.

The participants in the meeting expressed the unanimous opinion that the inactment of the INF Treaty was exerting a positive impact on the political climate in the world and particularly in Europe, was creating a qualitatively new situation in the area of disarmament, and lending a strong impetus to this process which is of vital significance for the destinies of mankind.

One is now witnessing favourable prerequisites for progress in solution of such disarmament problems as reduction of strategic offensive armaments, liquidation of chemical weapons, reduction of troops and conventional armaments in Europe.

The Soviet side underlined that in the obtaining conditions it was essential to build up the dynamics of the process of disarmament and not to slacken the current pace. Should one repeat the old mistakes by looking for "compensation" for the missiles being eliminated, view actions of partners in negotiations again through the old prism of suspicion and mistrust? It is necessary to more resolutely clear the practice of interstate relations of dogmatism and stereotypes of the past, which hamper it. It is the open and constructive dialogue alone that will make it possible to have a headway towards attaining the desired goal—equal security at the lowest possible level of troops.

In the course of the talk the sides repeatedly turned to the question of the role of Europe in international affairs, the responsibility of the European peoples for the destinies of contemporary civilisation. In this context the Soviet side expounded to the British MPs the Soviet idea of building "a common European home" which has won broad recognition in the recent time. Noted was its organic connection with the development of the Helsinki process, with the Vienna Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe being its important stage.

The sides declared for the meeting to be crowned as soon as possible with weighty accords and underlined that they are bound to become the foundation for solution of many problems uppermost in the minds of the European peoples.

The Soviet and British parliamentarians unanimously declared for broader interaction between the USSR and Britain as partners in international affairs, for further development of contacts and relations between our countries, including through the parliamentary channels.

Taking part in the meeting were Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Council of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet Vadim Zagladin, members of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet Viktor Karpov, Ivan Laptev, Yevgeniy Primakov, other officials.

British Ambassador to the USSR Rodric Braithwaite took part in the talk.

A luncheon in honour of the guests was given on the same day on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The members of the delegation laid a wreath to the Unknown Soldier's Tomb at the Kremlin wall.

New Book on Philby Published in UK

LD2810095688 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 28 Oct 88

[Text] London October 28 TASS—The British publishing house Andre Deutsch has brought out a book by Philip Nightly, a British journalist and writer, entitled "Philby: KGB Masterspy."

It is one of the most detailed works dealing with the life and activities of Kim Philby, a well-known Soviet intelligence officer.

The book is unique because it is based on a dialogue of the author with Philby that they held for several days in Moscow shortly before the death of Philby last May.

Nightly is the only Western writer with whom Philby shared recollections of his work and whom he told about the motives and about his cooperation with Soviet intelligence services.

FRG's Scholz Interviewed Prior to Moscow Visit

PM2110121988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Special correspondent S. Guk report on interview with FRG Defense Minister Rupert Scholz by Soviet journalists in Bonn: "Cautious Optimism. What FRG Defense Minister Rupert Scholz Intends To Bring to Moscow"; date not given]

[Text] It was confirmed in Bonn that Defense Minister R. Scholz would accompany Federal Chancellor H. Kohl to Moscow. Our small delegation of journalists who visited the FRG on the eve of the high-level visit was unanimous—an attempt should be made to meet R. Scholz (the program for our visit did not include a conversation with him). When all is said and done, even though contacts between high-ranking military officials from East and West are starting to get established, defense ministers from NATO countries are still rare visitors to Moscow. It would be interesting to find out who the chief of the FRG military department would meet in Moscow and what problems would be discussed.

Agreement to the meeting arrived the same day: We were informed that R. Scholz would be expecting the Soviet journalists at the Defense Ministry at 0730 hours. At the set time, the minister, accompanied by generals, received us in a room resembling a conference hall. He invited us to sit around the table and suggested: Let us have breakfast and talk at the same time. Every now and again he would make a remark like: Why are you not eating anything? Here is your opportunity to do some material damage to the Bundeswehr.

...Rupert Scholz is 51. A jurist by education, he is a professor of law. He joined the Christian Democratic Union, one of the parties in the present ruling coalition, relatively recently, in 1983. He has spent even less time in the post of defense minister—only a few months. Nevertheless, regardless of this brief period, R. Scholz' political actions are highly valued in Bonn.

Talks with USSR Defense Minister D.T. Yazov are due to be held in Moscow, the minister told us. The most important problem is the concentration of arms in Europe, which has exceeded all sensible norms. The

FRG welcomes the constructive approach to disarmament proposed by M.S. Gorbachev with due consideration for the West's desire to eliminate existing asymmetries. In this context the military on both sides have a multitude of specific questions which will be discussed with the utmost frankness and with the desire to achieve disarmament.

The Warsaw Pact, R. Scholz went on, enjoys great superiority in the sphere of conventional arms—tanks and artillery. The USSR does not deny this. Therefore, the problem of imbalances must be solved jointly.

Where is the West's superiority? NATO has more aircraft, the minister admitted. In his opinion, it is necessary to exchange observers and verify the true state of affairs (the two sides differ on the question of quantities of arms), and after that, with reliable information in hand, to embark on reductions. It is necessary to begin by eliminating the imbalances, and this must be done promptly. In this regard NATO has no disagreement with the socialist countries' position.

Differences between East and West also exist in the approach to tactical nuclear arms. R. Scholz believes that nuclear weapons are purely political weapons: They have made it possible to maintain peace in Europe for over 40 years by performing a deterrent function.

But even a war using conventional means in heavily populated Europe, with its dense network of nuclear power stations and chemical industry enterprises, would today be tantamount to suicide, we said. The minister agreed, but with a reservation. Let us assume, he replied, that the Warsaw Pact were to suddenly attack the West (he was unwilling to consider the possibility of aggression by NATO even as a hypothesis); the surprise factor could help in winning a war fought by conventional means. This must be rendered impossible, and it will be discussed at the Moscow talks. Moreover, nuclear weapons as a means of deterrence are unlikely to disappear from Europe in the foreseeable future. This is NATO's stance.

The measured pace of the conversation was disrupted just once, when we asked the minister to explain the criteria which NATO uses as a basis for classifying tactical nuclear weapons as defensive. When he repeated the "deterrence" concept, one of the attending generals joined the conversation and asked whether the Soviet journalists had asked this question of their own defense minister. We had to explain: There is no need to ask him about this because not only the defense minister but also the USSR's top leadership believes that the existence of nuclear weapons in the world is unjustified and proposes their stage-by-stage elimination. Unfortunately, NATO is still not prepared for this.

We hope for success at the Moscow talks, R. Scholz emphasized at the conclusion of the conversation. The situation now is more favorable than ever. It is important to openly discuss the existing differences and to understand what governs each side's actions.

Indeed, despite all the differences between NATO and the Warsaw Pact regarding the ways to end the scale of disarmament, both sides express the desire to achieve progress in this sphere. It is extremely important that the voice of the military be heard increasingly often in this dialogue, in addition to that of the politicians. R. Scholz is coming to Moscow with a measure of cautious optimism. And judging by the situation, there is every reason for optimism.

Further on Interview

PM2410141988 Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Oct 88 p 3

[Special correspondent R. Kolchanov dispatch under the rubric "From a Journalist's Notebook": "Bonn Crossroads" incorporating report on undated interview with FRG Defense Minister Scholz by Soviet journalists in Bonn]

[Excerpts] Bonn, Oct—Breakfast With the Defense Minister [subhead]

The military are the same everywhere.

Major General Neumann.

Colonel Dunkel.

Senior Lieutenant, I introduced myself, adding "of the reserve."

Senior Lieutenant? the major general asked, sounding surprised. Either he had an especially high opinion of this rank in our army, or he thought I had not managed to climb very far on the "military reserve ladder." I was not able to establish which, because during the whole of the breakfast the major general only said one more sentence.

During the remaining time the conversation was conducted by R. Scholz. It was conducted intelligently, as behooves a professor of law who exchanged his university chair for the defense minister's desk only 6 months ago. He reacted instantly to questions and rejoinders like an experienced politician, although officially he joined the CDU only very recently.

How did you get the idea of becoming defense minister?

I did not—the chancellor did. All I had to do was agree, R. Scholz said with a smile.

The minister asked me not to quote his remarks but to write down the main details objectively and briefly. Incidentally, it would have been difficult to record the conversation otherwise at the elegantly laid table, covered with what was obviously not soldiers' fare, and early in the morning at that. We exchanged a joke in this context about the Bundeswehr's vigilant watch.

Naturally, the minister said, the Bundeswehr, just like the other NATO armed forces, has been set up to protect peace and to rebuff a possible aggression.

From the postulates we then moved on to the details which are so important, expecially in the military-political sphere. The new Bonn defense minister's stance rules out any ambiguity. He favors the continued presence of U.S. nuclear weapons in the FRG and their modernization, which should not be confined to the replacement of rusting components but should include the creation of new systems. Certain exceptions are made with respect to nuclear artillery and "dual purpose" weapons, that is weapons which can use both conventional and nuclear munitions. This could become a subject of negotiations at European talks, under certain conditions, of course. But on the whole nuclear weapons are essential because they are above all "political weapons."

What do you mean by this?

It is very simple, the minister replied. These weapons make war impossible because the risk of retaliation is too great.

According to this logic the higher the risk, the less likely the war, and the magnitude of the risk depends on the nuclear might of the side that is preparing to defend itself against a potential aggressor. But after all, each of the opposing sides can suspect the other of evil intentions. Alas, the concept of the "risk of retaliation" is whipping up the arms race, and especially the nuclear arms race, not just theoretically but in practical terms and with all the ensuing consequences. From the political viewpoint this constantly maintains and strengthens the illusion that it is possible to resort to blackmail with a nuclear backing. A vicious circle of calamities to beset man!

The Soviet Union, R. Scholz believes, still has a huge superiority in conventional arms. Past experience has revealed the fruitlessness and inexpediency of arguing over individual units. This applies even more now. Recently correspondents of the weekly DIE ZEIT, talking to the FRG defense minister, asked him the following question: "For 3 years M.S. Gorbachev has bombarded the West with disarmament and verification proposals which largely correspond to former Western proposals. And what has happened?"

Allow me to add that at the UN General Assembly E.A. Shevardnadze, the USSR foreign minister, has proposed a reduction of conventional armed forces and armaments in three stages. First the imbalances and asymmetries in NATO and Warsaw Pact armaments would be removed, then the armed forces of both sides would be cut by approximately 500,000 men each, and finally, the very nature and structure of both sides' armed forces would be changed with a view to eliminating their offensive nature and making them truly defensive.

Minister R. Scholz agrees with this approach in principle. He is hoping to discuss these and other problems during the federal chancellor's visit to the Soviet Union.

We got up from the table. As the main questions had been dealt with, I asked the reticent General Neumann when saying good-bye about Rust, whose name crops up in the local news media from time to time.

The Bundeswehr generals, he replied, differ from this adventurer in that they have a high sense of responsibility....

Responsibility, when correctly understood, is very valuable in our nuclear age. [passage omitted]

America Is Not Ashamed To Accept Help [subhead]

Reality, of course, lags behind what is possible. In such an important sphere of human existence and interstate relations as trade and economic contacts it is very important to ensure that this lag is as small as possible.

Soviet trade's share has now fallen below the 2-percent mark in the FRG's foreign trade turnover.

The notorious Cocom lists, insufficient activeness and initiative especially on our side, the conservative structure of Soviet exports, and slumping oil and other raw material prices are all to blame for this. West German businessmen see one of the main problems in the fact that the USSR has little to offer that is in demand on Western markets.

Meanwhile there are more than enough objective preconditions for an intensive exchange of goods between our countries. They include the enormous capacity of the Soviet market, the two sides' industrial and scientific potential, favorable geographical factors, old traditions and current contacts, broadening prospects and new dynamism in this sphere, and new and sometimes unusual options brought about by the restructuring in the Soviet Union.

In the rapidly changing world of today, traditions are losing their former importance and it is necessary to adjust more actively to new conditions and to seek new

ways and forms of economic cooperation, viewing the basis and the potential for such mutual relations from a different angle and realistically assessing both strategic and short-term factors.

The Milan journal PANORAMA writes, for instance: "The USSR is viewed covetously not only in our country. Industrial firms in Japan, Finland, and the United States are merely waiting for a suitable moment to enter the fray for seats aboard the 'Eastern Express'."

Our industrialists, confirmed K. Steves, a leader of the Federal Union of German Industry, are following these processes closely and entering into concrete negotiations. However, there are plenty of problems. Our Soviet partners are insufficiently aware of the conditions and rigorous demands of the Western market, although it would not be all that difficult to make many types of your goods sufficiently competitive. U.S. light industry, which had lost its prestige, has become competitive again thanks to our technology.

An accord has now been reached on a massive credit for the modernization of the Soviet light and food industries. If used sensibly, it could be highly effective.

H. Aretts, a leader of German industry's Eastern Committee, described a trip to the Kola Peninsula, noting the great opportunities for cooperation and at the same time making no secret of his amazement that not one of his business contacts had sufficiently mastered the questions of prime cost.

If it is possible to speak of a West German "version" of Mr Hammer, it would undoubtedly have to be Otto Wolf von Amerongen, who for many years headed the German industry Eastern Committee and who is familiar down to the smallest detail with all the fiascos and messes in our foreign trade and even in our economic mechanism. He has noted, very much to the point, that "the main joint FRG-USSR enterprise should be a school for training managers."

Naturally, it is not pleasant to have to listen to recurring criticism, and unfortunately justified criticism, of our muddleheadedness and mismanagement. However, for the sake of the cause, it is not a lack of knowledge and knowhow that we should be ashamed of but unwillingness to acquire them.

Life demands that we overcome this vice as quickly as possible.

Papoulias on Trade Ties, Political Issues

PM2710114188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent Yuriy Kornilov report "especially for IZVESTIYA" on interview with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias by Kornilov in Athens: "Karolos Papoulias: We Want To Develop Cooperation With Southern Russia"; date not given]

[Text] Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias is a native of Ioannina, a city in the north of the country, and our conversation began with a description of that city's history. Ioannina is a major commercial center. Over the centuries, local businessmen and merchants have maintained close trading links with vast regions of southern Russia, from Odessa to Batumi.

My interlocutor is an experienced politician, and it was of course no accident that he brought up the history of his native city. People in Greece welcomed M.S. Gorbachev's Krasnoyarsk speech with great interest and attention, especially the part where he spoke of large-scale plans to invigorate foreign economic ties in order to develop Siberia and the Far East, about plans to create a unique preferential regime for these regions and to organize special joint enterprise zones there. Many politicians and representatives of business circles in Greece ask: Is there no possibility of extending the preferential regime, designed to serve the development of Siberia and the Far East, to the country's southern regions as well?

"Such an idea seems justified and highly promising," the minister said. "Northern Greece—Ioannina and the adjoining regions—already have close contacts and actively developing trade and economic ties with the USSR. By way of an example, I could cite the "Epirus" firm, which is discussing with its Soviet partners the possibility of jointly processing aromatic oils. Our north offers great opportunities for cooperation in setting up joint enterprises in the timber processing industry, livestock breeding, and other sectors. To put it briefly, the initial steps have been taken—why not progress further? I am convinced that such a line would correspond with both countries' interests and with the spirit of the times...."

The conversation turned to the fact that the development of economic ties today must be perceived within the context of the general improvement of the international situation.

"There is now reliable evidence," K. Papoulias said in this context, "that the trends toward detente and peace could become a stable factor of international development. Greece intensively supported and still supports every step forward in this direction. The international community is well aware of the active part played by our prime minister in the elaboration of the six countries' initiatives for peace and disarmament. We believe that the processes now under way in the world will make peace and cooperation a lasting and permanent reality in the European Continent. Of course there are both difficulties and obstacles along the way to lasting peace, but the important point is that today all European peoples are steadfastly acting in this direction."

One of the noteworthy aspects of the present international situation is the growing determination of UN member countries to put an end to regional conflicts which are poisoning the international atmosphere.

"We are convinced," K. Papoulias said, "that all regional conflicts must be resolved on the basis of the UN Charter and under that international organization's auspices. Our government is committed to the line of peaceful settlement of such conflicts, and people in Greece welcomed with gratification the measures for solving the Afghan problem. These measures are the result of the realization by all parties to the conflict that it is necessary to eliminate the hot spots still existing in today's world."

Greece is simultaneously a Balkan and a Mediterranean country. How does the minister perceive the state of affairs in the region?

"Athens," K. Papoulias noted in this context, "was the first West European capital to acclaim the USSR's large-scale initiatives for turning the Mediterranean into a region of peace and peaceful cooperation, put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in his Belgrade speech in March 1988. The idea of turning the Mediterranean into a zone of peaceful cooperation encounters broad support among the Greek public. I think any initiative that could further this development would be an important step forward. Our country was among the first to advocate the creation of a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans. These problems are constantly at the center of attention at conferences of Balkan states. Of course the elaboration of mutually acceptable solutions is not a simple job, but I do believe such solutions will be found. There is no doubt that the creation of a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans would help to strengthen the climate of trust both in Europe itself and beyond its boundaries."

A few days ago, on 15-16 October, K. Papoulias chaired in Ioannina an unofficial meeting of EEC foreign ministers, whose participants stressed that the new processes occurring in the USSR and the other socialist countries encourage the "Common Market" to strengthen and develop ties with East Europe. "Greece," the minister noted during the conversation, "intends to actively assist the development of cooperation between the EEC and the Soviet Union. At present our country holds the EEC chairmanship, and we will do everything possible to ensure that this cooperation develops as broadly as possible."

Before concluding the interview, the minister reverted to the prospects of Greek-Soviet relations. He noted that while these ties could serve as an example of good relations between states with different systems in the political sphere, much can be done in the sphere of trade contacts and ties to make these contacts broader and stronger.

"I am convinced that the idea of all-around development of such contacts and ties, primarily with your country's southern regions, will be backed by Prime Minister A. Papandreou who, following an illness, is due to resume his duties soon," K. Papoulias said.

Shevardnadze Receives Turkish Envoy

LD2210153988 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 22 TASS—Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Foreign Minister of the USSR Eduard Shevardnadze received Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in the USSR Volkan Vural at the latter's request, today.

The onward development of Soviet-Turkish relations in accordance with the principles of goodneighbourly and friendly cooperation was noted with satisfaction at the meeting which passed in a friendly atmosphere.

The USSR and Turkey have everything necessary for raising bilateral relations to a higher level, enriching them with new, perspective forms and methods of cooperation.

In discussing international matters the two sides expressed confidence that the Soviet Union and Turkey, acting in the spirit of new political thinking, can largely contribute to consolidation of universal peace.

Sardinia Referendum To Query U.S. Base

PM2510103588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Oct 88 Second Edition p 7

[Own correspondent N. Miroshnik dispatch: "First Referendum"]

[Text] Rome, 20 Oct—"Do you oppose the presence of foreign bases on the island—bases where nuclear submarines and nuclear weapons are deployed that are not subject to any control by the Italian Parliament?" This is one of the questions submitted for a referendum scheduled for 11 December. It will be the first regional referendum in Sardinia.

The voting on the bases issue was initiated some months ago by an action committee formed by the Italian Communist Party's Sardinian organization, the Sardinian Action Party, the Association of Peace Supporters, environmental protection organizations, and young Communists, Socialists, and Catholics. By law a minimum of 2,000 of the island's inhabitants have to demand a popular consultation in order for the regional authorities to implement it. The action committee has succeeded in collecting 10 times that number of signatures in response to its appeal.

The large number of people who have signed the demand for a referendum must have political significance and show the central authorities the sentiments of the inhabitants of Sardinia. Since 1972 a U.S. nuclear submarine base has been sited close to the shores of Sardinia, on the neighboring small uninhabited island of Santo Stefano in the Maddalena Archipelago.

Commission Discusses Netherlands Cooperation

LD2910162088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] The Hague, 29 Oct (TASS)—The 10th session of the Soviet-Netherlands intergovernmental mixed commission on cooperation in the economic, industrial, and technical spheres was held here 24-28 October. The Soviet delegation was headed by G.F. Rakhimbayev, deputy USSR minister of foreign economic relations, and the Netherlands delegation by F.A. Engering, director general of the Foreign Economic Relations Directorate of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs.

During the session, attention was drawn to the great importance of developing bilateral cooperation based on the talks held between R. Lubbers, prime minister of the Netherlands, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, during Lubbers' visit to the USSR in November 1986.

Those taking part in the session discussed questions of cooperation between the USSR and the Netherlands and examined the progress of implementing long-term programs for the development of economic, industrial, and scientific-technical cooperation, as well as possibilities for developing cooperation in production and establishing joint enterprises in the USSR. Particular attention was devoted to improving the trade structure and to raising the proportion of machinery and equipment therein.

The 11th session of the mixed commission is to be held in Moscow in the second half of 1989.

Wholesale Trade Agreement Signed in Finland

LD2410233388 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1905 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Helsinki, 24 Oct (TASS)—Questions of the development of Soviet-Finnish cooperation in the organization and development of an integrated system of wholesale trade in the means of production were discussed during a visit to Finland which ended today by L.A. Voronin, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Material and Technical Supply.

During the visit, an agreement was signed with the Union of Wholesale Traders of Finland on cooperation in the organization of wholesale trading. Matters relating to the setting up of joint ventures with a number of Finnish companies as a new form of foreign economic cooperation were also reviewed.

L.A. Voronin had a meeting with K. Sorsa, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and chairman (of the Finnish section) of the standing intergovernmental Soviet-Finnish Commission for Economic Cooperation. During the conversation, which passed in a friendly atmosphere, some matters of bilateral relations were discussed.

New TV Program on West European Technology

LD2110101488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Oct 88

[Excerpts] Moscow central television has presented a new program. Here is our correspondent Oleg Aksenov:

[Aksenov] This program, called "Progress, Information, and Advertising," will inform Soviet viewers, and especially specialists from various spheres of the economy, of the latest technological achievements in Western Europe. The program is created by the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio, by the joint Soviet-Hungarian advertising agency TISA, and by the Finivest Italian group. [passage omitted]

West European firms will present short video clips, about 5-7 minutes long, about the achievements that are available in those countries. Soviet specialists and leaders of enterprises who have watched these programs might find them useful. [passage omitted]

U.S. Aggravating Nicaraguan Hurricane Hardship

LD2910120488 Moscow TASS in English 1143 GMT 29 Oct 88

[Text] Managua October 29 TASS—The United States drafted and started implementing plans for stepping up terrorist actions of mercenary gangs in Nicaragua, said President Daniel Ortega. Speaking on Friday to the diplomatic corps accredited here and to journalists, he pointed out that the USA intended to shift 3,000 contras from Honduras to Nicaragua. Hirelings were given an order to thwart supplies of food and medicines to victims of the Joan hurricane. They are also supposed to frustrate coffee harvesting which is at its height now. Washington plans to aggravate to the utmost the hard situation in the country caused by the destructive hurricane.

By now, Daniel Ortega noted, the USA has completed the airlift to Honduras of weapons and ammunition for contra gangs under the guise of "humanitarian aid". Acting in defiance of all moral norms, Washington and gangs on its payroll intend to make use of the havoc inflicted by the hurricane for escalating the war in Nicaragua. Under these conditions the republic is forced to strengthen its defences, despite numerous economic problems. The president called on the international community to demand that the United States stop realising these criminals designs and end completely the undeclared war against Nicaragua.

Touching on the consequences of the Joan hurricane, Daniel Ortega pointed out that it had inflicted a huge damage on the country's economy. It is even difficult to estimate its scale, and the leadership does not have the final data on economic losses up to this time. The Nicaraguan Government invited representatives of competent international organizations to send to the republic a commission which will define the economic damage from the Joan hurricane. The Nicaraguan leader gave a high appraisal to voluntary assistance of various countries to Nicaraguns who had suffered from the natural calamity. He said at the same time that the country would not be able to overcome the hurricane's aftermaths without foreign assistance and called on the international community to render economic assistance to Nicaragua.

U.S. Lengthens 'Chain' of Anti-Panamanian 'Lies'

PA2110175288 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Oct 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States has unleashed a major disinformation campaign against Panama. This campaign has a single objective: Washington's psychological warfare and its economic and political moves—which violate all tenets of international law—aim to destabilize the sovereign Panamanian Government. This was stated at the 5th Congress of the Latin American Federation of Journalists in Acapulco, Mexico, by the representative of the Panamanian Journalists' Association.

A typical example of the U.S. mass media's slander is their campaign against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces. Noriega's name is featured in news of the war that Yankeeland's special services are waging against drug traffickers. Based on these ridiculous accusations, U.S. congressmen have gone as far as proposing that General Noriega be summoned before a Yankee court.

Recently, new links have been added to the chain of anti-Panamanian lies. There have been several news agency reports of incursions by the Panama Defense Forces into Costa Rica. Panama's National Defense Council [CND] has stated that these accusations are unfounded, offering as proof the testimonies of the area commanders mentioned by the news agencies. The council also listed the border towns where the placement of military contingents for the protection of the border is authorized by a mutual understanding between Panama and Costa Rica. The Costa Ricans have been under no threat whatsoever and much less faced with an armed attack. The CND command categorically denied the evil insinuations and rumors that arose over this problem. It added that these fabrications aim to upset the traditionally friendly relations between both countries and aggravate the already explosive situation in the area.

We must remember that 11 October was the 20th anniversary of the rise to power of the Panamanian patriotic military men led by General Omar Torrijos. His reforms in agriculture, health, education, finance, and labor and wage laws, and in strengthening the economy received wide support from the people. Torrijos' struggle for Panama's real independence and for the reestablishment of its sovereignty throughout its territory was also greatly supported in Panama and Latin America. This struggle resulted in the signing of the Torrijos-Carter Panama Canal Treaties in 1977. According to the treaties, the interoceanic waterway is supposed to pass to Panamanian jurisdiction in the year 2000. The zone adjacent to the canal is supposed to return to Panama and the U.S. troops are supposed to depart.

It must be stated that the last point awakens opposition in the United States. The prospect of losing this key position in Latin America obviously displeases Washington. All of the United States' state terrorism was used against Panama and Torrijos. To date, the United States stubbornly denies its participation in the tragic death of Torrijos in a mysterious airplane crash. Until the logical conclusion of the criminal persecution of the Panamanian leader, the hunt that was carried out was relentless and without respite. The U.S. Government uses the same tactic against a loyal Torrijos' follower: Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

However, times have changed. In the struggle against imperialist and local reactionary plots, Panama's patriotic forces have become stronger. Today, they show their firm determination to defend the Torrijist changes and the Panamanian people's right to independently decide their destiny, without asking permission from the United States.

Grenadian Oppositionist Sees Economic 'Chaos'

PM3110103988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 4

["IZVESTIYA Interview" with Tarley Francis, member of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement Council of Representatives, by correspondent A. Kamorin: "Grenada: Five Years On"; first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction; date of interview not specified]

[Text] Havana—It is now 5 years since the direct U.S. military aggression against the tiny Caribbean state of Grenada. As is well known, the intervention occured on the pretext of "defending democracy"; after the invasion the Grenadians were given lavish promises of "prosperity and stability." Five years have elapsed. The progressive socioeconomic transformations implemented in Grenada by Maurice Bishop's revolutionary government in the years 1979-1983 have been completely eliminated. What have the island's inhabitants gained in return?

[Francis] During this time the country has experienced a monstrous regression. Complete chaos reigns in the economy. This is above all due to the fact that Herbert Blaize's government, which was foisted on our people by the occupiers, pays virtually no attention to national interests. Agriculture and the fishing industry have been completely neglected. The government counted on tourism; however, the exacerbation of the financial difficulties in developed capitalist countries, which led to a fall in the stream of tourists, nullified these hopes. To be frank, there have not been any serious attempts to broaden the country's tourist potential either.

[Kamorin] Did Blaize's regime assume that Washington would shower it with all kinds of benefits?

[Francis] Yes, the puppet government very much relied on the occupiers' promised handouts: credits, customs dispensations, and capital investments in the island's industry. All this also proved to be an illusion. Last year the government asked the United States and the IMF for $29.5 million to stabilize the national economic situation. The authorities elaborated their development programs in expectation of this sum. Talks resulted in Grenada receiving a total of $3.2 million from its "benefactors." These two figures speak for themselves.

The United States was not at all interested in Grenada's prosperity, as was indicated in 1983. The aim of the intervention was purely political: to demonstrate America's ability to suppress revolutions and intimidate the region's progressive forces. After all this, Washington lost all interest in our country.

[Kamorin] What does the population of Grenada itself think about the state of the country's economy?

[Francis] The economic steps taken by the Blaize government boil down to compelling the people to pay for the authorities' incompetence via tax fiddles. The result of this course is that an income of 500 East Caribbean dollars now really "equates" to no more than 300 of the dollars in circulation in 1983. This is not merely our viewpoint; even right-wing parties have similar opinions. I think that the masses are perfectly able to perceive the difference in their position under the revolutionary government and under the occupiers' puppets.

[Kamorin] What are the tasks of the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement within the country today?

[Francis] We don't entertain any illusions: The party is still weak. This is partially due to the legacy of the past: Many Grenadians did not understand and did not welcome the events of October 1983 and the coming to power of the ultra-leftist party grouping that murdered Comrade Bishop, who was and still is held in tremendous affection within the country. It is difficult for those of us who continue his cause to escape from the consequences of that tragic intestine strife.

[Kamorin] Under what conditions is your party operating on Grenada?

[Francis] It is very difficult to work in the conditions of the "democracy" that the occupiers have brought to Grenada. Political activity is confined within a rigid framework. A massive propaganda attack is being launched on the party at a time when we are virtually deprived of access to the mass media: Broadcasting tariffs are such that only the bourgeois parties can use them. The government doesn't allow us to import paper and equipment into the country for our printing press. Many of the movement's leaders are exposed to veiled repressions: Some are banned from leaving the country to hold solidarity actions, and others are deprived of the opportunity of working in their specialism.

However, no one has or will be able to completely destroy the memory of the revolution. That is our hope, and this is the aim of the party's laborious work to restore the revolutionary consciousness of the people of Grenada.

Supreme Soviet Sends Costa Rica Sympathy Telegram
PM0111092988 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Condolence Telegram"]

[Text] On 26 October the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium sent Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez a telegram expressing sincere sympathy in connection with the major natural disaster that has hit the country and conveying condolences to the bereaved families.

Industrial Agreement Signed With Argentina
PM0111093988 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
28 Oct 88 Second Edition p 7

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] The 11th session of the Soviet-Argentine Joint Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation was held in Moscow 24-27 October. The Soviet and Argentine delegations examined the state of Soviet-Argentine economic, scientific, and technical ties and outlined measures for their further development in spheres of mutual interest. An agreement on industrial cooperation between the two countries and other documents were signed.

Political & Social

More on Gorbachev Visit to Komsomol Celebration

PRAVDA Carries Speech

PM0111155188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Nov 88 Second Edition pp 2-3

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Speech"; delivered 31 October in Moscow at the Palace of Youth to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Komsomol]

[Text] Dear friends: The CPSU Central Committee delegation—and I think we will be joined in expressing thanks by Komsomol and party veterans—and I are very glad to be with you on this day, the day of the 70th anniversary of the Komsomol, and to talk about our Komsomol affairs and the affairs of our great country. I congratulate you on a great event. Through you, I congratulate the Komsomol members and the young people of the capital and of Moscow Oblast. I greet the youth of the country and all Soviet people, for the Komsomol is the kind of organization with which perhaps the very best years of every generation of our people are linked.

With the Communist Youth League are linked our first experiences in carrying out political work, our first important actions in life, our first joys, and our first grief. The Komsomol is an irreplaceable organization and political school for the young people of the country of socialism. Despite all the difficulties and problems, despite all the trials through which it has passed, the Komsomol was always with the country, has turned out to be true to the ideals of the revolution, and has done much to ensure that our country is of the kind that it is today: making an enormous contribution to the progress of all mankind in the world. Let us today, therefore, do what is required of us, those who are living today, let us pay our deepest respects to the labor and the struggle and to all generations of Komsomol members.

I have had brief meetings here and among them was a meeting with Komsomol and party veterans. I can see them occupying places of honor in the hall. Let us stand to greet them and through them all generations of our Komsomol members.

People always went into the Komsomol not in order to get on—although in recent years this has been the case too—but people went into the Komsomol in order to feel involved and do something for the revolution. The Komsomol shared the country's destiny. Our destiny is important and we can be proud of it.

In the history of our country and our people, there are also many things that not only make us uneasy but trouble us. The tragic pages in our history trouble us. As a whole society we are deeply disturbed by what happened in the years of the cult of personality. But we are learning lessons from this. In talking about all this, I think you will agree with me, we nonetheless can see the whole country, all generations, all the affairs of our people, and everything that we have managed to do, go through, endure, and experience. This vision teaches us a great lesson about life. It provides an incentive for contemporary matters when we have embarked on a course of revolutionary restructuring.

We look back—this was said at the 20th Komsomol Congress—without lowering our gaze, for the whole of these 70 years have been imbued with the struggle for the ideas of the revolution, although this struggle by our people, the party, and the Komsomol was burdened by the tragic events that I have already mentioned. Today when we are giving meaning to history—this is precisely the occasion when it is possible to return to it once again—we do this in order to understand what happened, to look into the way in which all generations of Soviet people lived, the way in which they labored, what they believed in, to evaluate their achievements and their feats, to understand and to give proper due to their courage, their endurance, and their sacrifices. This, I think, is the only correct, truthful, and honest approach to history, to our history, which gives us strength for the future and adds to our faith in the ideals of the revolution and the things we are doing today in continuing that revolution.

I am very moved and gladdened by the conversations that have taken place at this wonderful Palace of Youth. First and foremost, I am gladdened by the fact that young people have accepted restructuring.

Dear friends, I would like to repeat what I have already said once before to the country's young people, and not so as to say something pleasant to you on this festive day. That would be too simple for me. I want to tell you that restructuring will triumph only—and will achieve its goal—only if it is accepted by young people. The fact that I have heard and felt the support of young people today has gladdened me.

Both today and tomorrow especially, the success of restructuring depends to a decisive degree on the contribution of young people. It can be said that restructuring has been your cause for many years, and that is the attitude you take toward restructuring. The fact that I have felt that our young people have just such an attitude and understanding of the significance of restructuring for the destiny of the country, and for the personal destiny of everyone, this seems to me the main achievement of restructuring over these first difficult 3 years. I congratulate you on your choice—that is how I have understood it, that you have firmly taken the path of restructuring and will proceed at a firm pace along this path.

In the 42 months since April 1985 we have lived through a unique period. This time is filled with the profound thoughts of the Soviet people on the country's destinies, on its past, present, and future. It is a time of intense

work on the solution of those problems which restructuring has raised. I would name the 27th party congress and 19th party conference as the main peaks on this road since April. I believe we will have to return again to them, to those events in the life of our country in its crucial stage, in the crucial stage of its history.

Now, we must daily solve practical questions so that our policy is not turned into pious wishes, but such a threat exists. We have still not fully understood the whole significance of the congress and party conference decisions. But today it is already clear that these are your and my reference points. Since we have such reference points, I am sure that we, the Soviet people, the country, the party, the Komsomol, and youth, will not lose our way, however complex the problems we face at this time.

Appraising the present day, we see that society is emerging from the difficult period of stagnation. In those years great damage was inflicted not only on the economy but on people's convictions, on their faith in the accessibility of the proclaimed targets—let's say it frankly—on their trust in the party and socialism. Doubts of this kind penetrated deeply into the consciousness and were reflected particularly in the country's youth movement. This process went so far that people whose youth coincided with the sixties and seventies started to be spoken of sometimes as the "lost generation."

I'll say right off that I am not a supporter of such conclusions, and not only with regard to the youth of the sixties and seventies. Yes, socialist principles and our society itself, under the influence of authoritarian and bureaucratic relations and phenomena of stagnation, proved to be seriously deformed. Words and deeds bypassed each other, but despite all of the negative significance of these phenomena they did not have a hopelessly corrupting influence on people, on our society, and did not change the foundations of our socialist ideology and socialist way of life.

Despite all the complexities and the braking factors, millions of Soviet people worked selflessly for the sake of socialism. Were it otherwise, comrades, it would be difficult to count on the restructuring policy and the course for renewing socialist society to meet with such ardent support from all our people. This means that the socialist idea is alive among our people, in all generations. Faithfulness to October has been preserved, as has faith in socialism, and faith in our choice. In other words, comrades, we have preserved the main thing, and so we will resolve the restructuring tasks, however difficult or complex they may be.

How did we begin in April? We decided to ask the most difficult and direct questions of the party, of all society, and to try to answer them with all honesty and straightforwardness based on a critical analysis of all of our experience. We investigated everything taking place in our home, in which we are living, and this brought us to the need for restructuring. We looked thoroughly into what is taking place in the world around us, and this brought us to new thinking in foreign policy.

We have moved from these theoretical conclusions to formulating a policy of restructuring, and now we have a theory and a policy of restructuring and in the main, basically, we know what has to be done. Already that is of no small importance, dear comrades. The gravest consequences are those that follow mistakes that have been allowed to occur in policy. And it is for this reason that we have worked so hard and so doggedly to put forward a realistic policy. A policy that would not only rely on the experience of the past but would also set out long-term goals and tasks. A policy that might be close to and understandable to all Soviet people. This has come about and is the first and the chief victory.

We have now embarked on a stage in restructuring that is very difficult for all of us, society as a whole, each and every collective, every party organization, Komsomol organization, and every human being. Yes, there will still be discussion; that ought to become an integral element in our socialist society. Yes, we will develop the processes of glasnost and democracy. We will discuss all problems. We will encourage healthy criticism in order to safeguard ourselves against errors. All this will happen because this is how our society must live. It is only in such an atmosphere of openness and democracy that a human being can come to realize his potential. Only in such a society will a human being feel good. A human being who has worthy goals and who has the chance to make full use of his talent and ability, is a strong human being. He has it within his power to resolve the toughest of problems.

All the same, there is one particular feature of the present moment to which I should like to draw attention and it is good that it has cropped up here in my conversations with you. Rallies alone, policies alone—no matter how progressive, how people-oriented, directed toward man's interests—will not solve it. The policies, rallies, evaluations, slogans, and criticisms have to be followed by actions that set these policies in motion, set society's whole potential in motion. The time of actions, the time of practical deeds has come. We are acquainted with many very important Komsomol initiatives. This is the best argument that the Komsomol has already started to act. Friends, I congratulate you on this. You have to go along the road of large-scale, varied social, productive, cultural, and political actions in all areas of our society's life. I wish you success along that road.

We've also had some brief discussions. Presumably the Komsomol members on this day did not want to raise everything, especially during these short meetings, or they were sparing us, the older representatives of different Komsomol generations. Nevertheless, there were discussions, even during these brief meetings. One of them concerned the fact that restructuring is still proceeding slowly. Well, this is what I think. First of all, we

will all agree that we all want it to take place more quickly. I believe that here we are all in agreement. I don't know who is against. I believe that only those who today benefit from all sorts of undeserved privileges, their official position, and for whom yesterday's life is convenient. Maybe that section of people does not want restructuring to proceed more quickly. Furthermore, maybe some of them do not accept restructuring altogether. This too we should see and know about. There are such people in our society.

But the absolute majority of our people, representatives of every generation want restructuring to take place more quickly and bear positive fruit more quickly. I have already said, and I would like to tell you again, what a great desire there is both among the young and, I can assure you, among the older people, to deal with the accumulated problems at one stroke, to throw everything off, and to walk and breathe freely. But life is much more complex. And there are no easy solutions. I have to tell you this too, and I believe that you understand it.

It is a revolutionary time. Profound changes have started. Both the old and the new are fighting, and there are supporters of both one and the other. There aren't many open opponents of restructuring. As for the rest, this is a difficult time of rethinking all of life—their own and the country's—and of searching for new approaches, new solutions, or a rebirth of our values tested by time and necessary to us today, too.

That is why not everything is yet succeeding. That is why the radical economic reform is also proceeding with difficulty. That is why the process of democratization, too, the deployment of the potential of socialist democracy, is not going so smoothly.

Look at the activity of the party, the Komsomol, and the local soviets alike. With what difficulty matters are proceeding here but they are proceeding, just as the processes of restructuring of the internal life of the party, the internal life of the Komsomol, of the local soviets, are moving. They are indeed all very serious things. They concern the whole country. For they are all connected with the reappraisal of many years of experience, of that to which we have become greatly accustomed—you less than we—it is easier for you to restructure yourselves, and we pin our hopes on you.

We have not had time to do everything yet. There is much that irritates people. There has not been a really perceptible improvement in the supply of foodstuffs and commodities. This is aggravated by difficulties with the transfer to economic accountability [khozrashcet] and the new methods of economic management, with the assimilation of new technologies, and, most importantly, with the breaking down of established, stereotyped thinking.

Well, the aggravation of a number of problems and the variety of attitudes in the transitional phase are a natural and, to some extent, inevitable phenomenon. All this must be endured without flinching and the matter, once begun, must be seen through to the end.

It is necessary to step up the struggle against conservatism and against everything which slows us down or drags us back. That is the main thing. But is is also necessary to keep something else in mind. In periods of abrupt change one comes across uncertainty and sometimes extremism. You find people who take advantage of the legitimate desire of the masses—namely, to resolve tasks more quickly—and issue ostensibly radical but essentially erroneous appeals. Young people, distinguished by their energy and receptiveness to everything revolutionary, must be able to see what is really revolutionary policy and what is a pseudorevolutionary parody of it—a loud and cliche-ridden parody—which is fashioned in isolation from reality and is incapable of leading to real and profound transformations.

What must be done to ensure that restructuring gathers greater momentum and develops on a larger scale? [Moscow Televison Service in Russian at 1600 GMT on 31 October, as part of a special program entitled "Meeting Between M.S. Gorbachev and the Young People of Moscow and Moscow Oblast," carries a similar version of this speech. Here, however, the Moscow Television version omits the three paragraphs and one sentence immediately preceding this note.] It is necessary—relying on glasnost and democracy, on the law of the enterprise which opens up broad opportunities for restructuring the economy and the mastering of new methods of management on the principles of financial autonomy and leasing, relying on the law on cooperatives, on everything that has democratized our economic life, relying on what is taking place in the political process in our country, the restructuring of the local soviets and the administrative bodies, using everything that has already been provided by restructuring—it is necessary to do a specific job in each labor collective, in each town, in each village, and it is necessary for each person to take up a clear position. Commands will not help, nor will new directives, appeals, and slogans. Unless they are accompanied by an increase in people's public activity they fall flat.

Far from everything has already been solved. Maybe even that which we have solved will still have to be redone. But we already have much today at our disposal. I would say we have what is necessary to change resolutely and sharply our economic life in the labor collectives, our public life in towns and villages and in the Komsomol and party organizations, everywhere.

I very much like the metaphor—I have already used it repeatedly—we need to do everything to avoid finding ourselves in the position of the locomotive which had only enough steam for the whistle. We have already given the signal and sounded the whistle. It is necessary

to get moving, however difficult and complicated it might be, and it is necessary to build up momentum. There is an obstacle in the way of restructuring. Yes, that is so—but levers and mechanisms have already been created which need to be used. They are: democracy, glasnost, economic reform, political reform, and control, public control. Nevertheless our locomotive is gathering speed.

Deep changes are taking place in the economy—structural improvements, as we say—which are very important and which will later influence our economy for many years to come. First and foremost we we are steadily reorienting our economy toward the solution of people's vital problems. Therefore, despite the difficulties, we have found the resources to properly finance major new health care, public education, and science programs, and to expand housing construction rates. Hence our enormous efforts to give the due dynamism to and develop the agrarian sector and, beginning with this year, the program for increasing goods and services in the country has already begun to yield initial results. For the first time in many years plans are being fulfilled and their growth comes to more than R20 billion.

It is still very far to fundamental changes, but everything that is taking place is going in the right direction.

But what is the main thing? In what does our main plan lie? What are we counting on? On what does our conviction that restructuring will actually take place rest? This is a big and main question. As a result of a serious deformation of the socialist principles as formulated by Lenin, the process of returning man to the sphere of the economy, the political process—that is, the problems of liquidating man's alienation from ownership, means of production, from the political and cultural process—all of this at some stage came to a halt. Commands and overadministration prevailed. The bureaucratic apparatus obtained widespread rights, which took its toll not only on the development rates of our society but also on the appearance of society. Through democracy and glasnost, economic reform, political reform, we must return man to all of these spheres, to being the main central character. This is the point of restructuring.

After all, several attempts were made after Stalin's death to revive Leninist principles. But all these attempts, even though they led to serious changes, nevertheless suffered defeat, and they suffered defeat first and foremost because the people were not involved properly in all these processes.

That, comrades, is why we ought to have recalled Lenin's most important tenet: that socialism is the "living creation of the masses." That is why, if you scrutinize all our decisions, you will see that that democratization of society and the disclosure of our system's potential through democratization of all our life are its linchpin. That is why we say that more democracy means more socialism. So it is more than a mere play on words; it is our political scheme, which we are implementing today. That is why, following on from economic reform, on the basis of which production relations are being reformed, and through financial autonomy, leasing relations, and the cooperative system human beings are getting closer to the property and is coming to control and manage it, to start being in charge, to reveal his potential and make use of his talent. Through political reform we are returning people to the political process.

A second aspect of our whole gigantic scheme is—let us be blunt—very difficult to fulfill, but is so needed by the country. Of course, in reforming the economy and the political process we ought to think of developing science and technology. Without fresh technologies the new methods of running the economy cannot on their own resolve all the problems for us. Yes, in the first years we would feel the benefit of restructuring economic relations in industry, in the commercial sphere, and in the agrarian sector. But we need a substantial advance in scientific and technological progress to achieve higher labor productivity. We are convinced that by taking this road we will cope with the tasks, even though it will not be easy. The years of stagnation have left many negative consequences in our society. These include wage leveling, parasitism, and social apathy. These must all be overcome, and this is already happening based on the processes we have begun in the country.

Throughout this enormous work we need a clear-cut, precise, and firm stance on the part of the Komsomol. What sort of Komsomol would we like to see? I familiarized myself with V. Mironenko's interview today and realized that discussion as to what the Komsomol and the country's youth movement should be like is not over. But I think one thing is clear: The first years of restructuring, as throughout these 70 years, have shown that we need the sort of political youth organization that the Komsomol represents.

Some people have been misled on this score in recent years. In my opinion, the Komsomol has set itself the insuperable task of embracing all and sundry. It is clearly not indifferent to the economic, managerial, and all the other problems that in some way affect young people.

Yet, the Komsomol is primarily an organization of young Communists who accept the party program and are ready and willing to cooperate and help to resolve political tasks and train the young generation so that it may shoulder the burden of responsibility for society and for continuing the policies of the revolution. That, I reiterate, is the kind of organization we need. I think that if there were no such organization today, then we Communists would do everything possible to create it. There is no political party in the world which does not have concern for its own future; and Communists, the party of innovators, the party of the future, most certainly cannot fail to think and take care of this. We will welcome the

revitalization and renewal of all the Komsomol's activities, on Leninist principles, as the political organization of our young people. That is the first and most important thing.

Second, we are for the Komsomol's independence. The Komsomol should not try to imitate the party, neither in its structure nor in its methods of work.

Third, we favor the Komsomol taking a real part in all processes of the state and social life, and in the management of the national economy and the country as a whole. That means that the way to all organs of power must be opened wide to young people. The Komsomol must be genuinely represented in all these organs. It must go through the school of learning the methods of governing a socialist state. We favor an active policy being formulated and implemented in the state regarding the young generation. We hope these ideas and approaches will be embodied in the law on young people which is currently actively being drawn up with your most active participation.

We will welcome it if not only the Komsomol organizations in the economy, but also in higher education institutions and in schools, function on the principles of independent action, of self-government: If, as the saying goes, they take power into their own hands.

The Komsomol organizations in higher education institutions have already discovered many things for themselves, properly speaking. I welcome this activity and independence of the Komsomol organizations of higher education institutions. Comrades, we are very eager to see strong Komsomol organizations in higher education institutions because they represent the country's future intelligentsia. Not only do we favor independent Komsomol organizations, acting on their own at schools, we also favor more independent pioneer organizations, too, after the well-known meeting in Artek.

It only seems that we are doing a good thing when we lead all these organizations by the hand. No, it is not so. You know, rights always come with responsibility. At first, people asked for more rights in the economy. We gave them rights. Now we see that many people wish to give them up. Why? Because they involve responsibility. First of all, it is financial autonomy. Income and all the funds at an enterprise depend on how you work. Earlier, when things turned out badly, one could write a document and send it to those in authority, thus enabling oneself to maintain that the problems had been raised but had not been solved. You must now solve them yourself using the rights that you have been given.

People used to ask us to abolish the state order. You have noticed, maybe, the discussion the issue brought about throughout this year, right up to the moment when we started elaborating a plan for 1989. Suddenly they started asking us to increase the state order. It transpired that in the absence of the state order one has to establish direct links, whereas it is easier to ask Gossnab and let it provide deliveries and links. It is simpler that way.

So you see, everything is developing in a complicated way. This is a very complex process. This process will not be simple as regards the introduction of independence, acting on one's own initiative, and principles of self-administration in the Komsomol either. But I believe the Komsomol may count on discussing these problems with Communists and leaders of higher educational establishments and schools on the principles of cooperation and the Komsomol's independence.

I support and rate highly the enormous inclination for politics that Komsomol members have displayed. The young want to understand the society we live in. Discussions on socialism are being held today, and they are basically healthy discussions. This is very important, comrades.

As recently as a few years ago we saw how interest in these problems and related disciplines was gradually declining. Today you do not have all the textbooks to satisfy this demand, indeed! They will appear soon. Maybe they will not be perfect yet, these textbooks, as time is needed to interpret everything to obtain scientific information in all spheres of social sciences.

But you have the main thing at your disposal—Lenin's heritage—and the true and genuine interest that we see today in our young people, especially in Komsomol members, in Lenin's heritage. In it you will find answers to many of the most important questions of today. Of course you won't find answers to every question. That would be not be a serious attitude. We must study Lenin's method, Lenin's dialectic, and Lenin's approach to the study of social processes. This is the skill which we must master.

But in itself it is noteworthy that young people today are becoming a politically active force. We welcome this activeness of young people. We have an interest in it: I am saying this also on behalf of the party, and I am convinced that our whole society has an interest in it.

Do not be frightened by difficulties. Do not give in when faced with them. Do not be put off by the new; it always creates an unusual situation. Sometimes we are not ready to act in these new conditions, but it is only a passing state. When you are active and sensible in your deeds and acts, you will be able to solve all the questions. I must say that we, the older people, are in just the same state. Life has faced us with such tasks that we must all fundamentally restructure ourselves, in the party, in the Komsomol, and in society, each one of us. I want to share this with you: In the Politburo when there is discussion of the most important questions of policy, before they take the form of some sort of concept, some sort of political solution, there are profound debates, and

views are compared. Sometimes we discuss some problems for a lengthy time. Some things we set aside to think about them and return to them later. This does not put us off. It is normal. We are faced with very many new problems. Don't be put off or frightened by new things. Do not give in when faced with them. It is all normal.

We are getting our second wind, on the basis of an understanding of the past, the present, and a scientific preview of the future, and are defining our role and our methods. What holds up our actions, our work today? Methods. Essentially it is a crisis of old methods, a reassessment of them. Not everything in the past was bad, of course: The experience which crystalized over a number of decades is and will continue to be of service. But much of what is linked with the command methods, with administration by injunction, what arose in the years of stagnation, a lot of all that must be reinterpreted and thrown out. The quicker we master the new, active methods of both organizational and political work and simply master new forms of human intercourse, the quicker our restructuring will go, the more its success will be guaranteed.

Dear friends, I congratulate you once again on the 70th anniversary of the Komsomol. You must bear in mind that the Communist Party strongly counts on the Komsomol, on young people, in its work to ensure and achieve the aims of the great revolutionary restructuring which is the direct continuation of the cause of October, the cause of Lenin! (M.S. Gorbachev's speech was accompanied by applause).

Replies to Questions

PM0111135188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
1 Nov 88 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report on 29 October question-and-answer session between M.S. Gorbachev and participants in the Moscow meeting to mark the Komsomol's 70th anniversary under the general heading: "M.S. Gorbachev's Speech"]

[Text] After M.S. Gorbachev's speech the meeting took a new direction: Komsomol members sent Mikhail Sergeyevich written questions, approached the microphones set up in the hall, expressed their opinion, and raised new questions to which M.S. Gorbachev gave answers.

N. Polevskiy, nonstaff leader of a dog breeders' club at the Pervomayskiy House of Pioneers and Schoolchildren: Thank you very much, Mikhail Sergeyevich, for speaking frankly. To be honest, on my way here I thought there would again be a beating of drums and the sound of kettledrums. I am pleased that this has not happened. The Komsomol's chief task is to educate the rising generation. It is not now coping fully with this. This may be not because it does not want to but because it is being prevented. It is being prevented by those unhealthy forces which are also hindering restructuring in general. Why do I say this? I work as a public instructor in a military patriotic association, in one of the very first associations to tackle military patriotic themes. Our club is now 25 years old. During this time we have brought the state a net income of approximately R35,000. Nevertheless... I have gone around all offices, and it is only to you and to the Supreme Soviet Presidium that I have not yet turned. I have been struggling with this for 4 years, and everywhere people try to reassure me that everything will be all right. But then things become still worse. The point is that four times we have built a sports ground to train lads for the Army. We have done so at our own expense. And four times it has been demolished. The last time this happened was before the youth and students festival, on the instructions of Khapunov, deputy chairman of Pervomayskiy Rayispolkom. It is a wasteland there now, but that comrade has borne absolutely no responsibility. I would like the Komsomol mass news organs to devote more attention to problems of military patriotic education. I am holding here a copy of the magazine MOLODOY KOMMUNIST with an article about our collective. Time has passed, but, unfortunately, this publication has not returned to these questions any more. Why did the magazine take fright? I will say more: The DOSAAF is the Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy. But I have not met a single volunteer there.

V. Andreyev, secretary of the Komsomol Committee of Moscow's G.V. Plekhanov Institute of the National Economy: I too have a few questions. I am a representative of VUZ youth. We are teaching those who will be carrying out restructuring. However, young people do not even get a glimpse of the equipment on which they are to work. The material and technical base of Moscow VUZ's is in a sad state.

And the second point. You have just said that we must stand guard over political questions. All the same, we would like not only to stand guard but also to participate and, probably, start, for example, with the highest organ and somehow represent the Komsomol there. I mean the Politburo.

The Komsomol is a truly political organization and truly the party's closest assistant and reserve. It seems to me that it should, all the same, have at least equal norms of representation at the Congress of People's Deputies with members of cooperatives. This is my verbal suggestion. In yesterday's television program "Supreme Soviet Deputies Speak," the commentator spoke in the spirit that we have done enough delving into the past and we must think about tomorrow. But do we—young people, in particular—already know everything about the past, and have we studied everything in so much detail that we must think only about what will happen tomorrow?

A. Belyayev, student of Moscow State University: Mikhail Sergeyevich, I would like to continue the topic mentioned by the previous speaker. The Komsomol city committee has already begun work on discussing the

draft law. And we have a whole package of suggestions from Komsomol members, from young people. Unfortunately, Mikhail Sergeyevich, you did not get round to visiting our displays....

M.S. Gorbachev: Why is that? I was shown.

A. Belyayev: One month is not enough to discuss such a document. And about figures. They must be substantiated. These are not complaints; it is my personal opinion. We are talking of norms of representation at the Congress of People's Deputies.

A. Sementsov, first secretary of Kaliningrad City Komsomol Committee: I wish to support the opinion of those who have spoken about Komsomol representation at the Congress of People's Deputies. The second question of concern to many of my comrades: In addition to work in the Komsomol, the "Impulse" youth creative association is operating in our city. In the union today there are very many such associations which set themselves the aim of resolving social problems by using profits from their economic activity. Unfortunately, they do not come entirely under the Law on Cooperatives, because cooperative members set themselves different aims. This year alone the association has already spent more than R200,000 on setting up teenagers' clubs, computer classes, and so forth. A situation is taking shape whereby the profit which we make in accordance with the Council of Ministers decision and which we intend to channel into resolving social problems is taken from us in the form of income tax, and to a far greater extent than from cooperatives. During the first 3 quarters of this year it will total more than R400,000. If it were channeled into using young people's own efforts to develop the social sphere and to resolve problems of health care and ecology, then we would be able, as you have said, to take a real part in restructuring and to get this process moving in our city at the hands of young people. I have heard that the question of voluntary societies is being prepared. When might this law appear, and how will it enable voluntary societies to channel their profits into resolving, let us say, some territorial tasks?

M.S. Gorbachev: There are some specific questions to which I would like to respond. In conversations and here I have heard the proposal for the Komsomol to be represented at a political, state level and to participate in decisionmaking on all questions concerning both the country and young people. It is a question of providing for Komsomol representation at the level of the CPSU Central Committee. I think that we will work out this question in time for the next party congress.

A question was raised which alarmed me: Are measures being taken to "reanimate" the Law on the State Enterprise? This means that the opinion exists that this law is moribund, as it were.

No, on the contrary. It has proved a complex matter to assimilate the law and attain the work principles enshrined in it. This law has very healthy and strong bases. Those who have managed to rely on the principles enshrined in the law are developing very strongly. And this is of great benefit both to society and to labor collectives.

Before my trip to Krasnoyarsk I asked for this real experience to be generalized. And, you know, thousands of enterprises which only 2-3 years ago were in a very difficult position are today rapidly gaining strength. Despite all the difficulties, all the enterprises have better economic results than those which have not gone over to the work principles enshrined in the law.

On 1 January all the remaining enterprises go over to the principles of economic accountability [khozraschet] and self-financing. Thus, the entire economy is being transferred to these principles. I believe that the sooner the principles enshrined in this law are assimilated and implemented, the sooner we will feel the results.

Of course, both the question of wholesale trade and questions of price formation are next in line. All this is very interconnected. It will be a complex process, but I do not think we need to raise the question of our having to "reanimate" the Law on the Enterprise. It lives and will gain in strength!

The second question: "How do things stand with the law on voluntary societies?" This law is being drawn up.

To proceed. The question which concerns both Comrade Mironenko and you: the Komsomol's representation in the light of the new procedure for elections to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies. First, I do not agree that these documents, the amendments to the Constitution, and the law itself show disrespect for the Komsomol. I believe that those who have argued this have themselves even shown contempt for other public organizations. You and I must be free of this. As regards representation, it seems to me that our most important organizations, such as the party, the Komsomol, the trade unions, women's councils, and cooperatives, will be worthily represented at the USSR deputies' congress.

One of the comrades who spoke referred to a televised conversation with a deputy, in which it was said: "Enough delving into the past." Well, perhaps we have done enough delving, but it is always very important and instructive to study the past and know our history, even the history of restructuring. We have already spoken of this, when we met in the palace foyer. I believe that each generation, starting out in life, relies on the experience of previous generations. At the same time each generation builds up its own stratum and makes its own contribution to the development of society. Each new stratum in a culture arises on the previous strata of culture, dialectically absorbing everything that accords with today's values and adding and attaching new values.

Now that we wish to impart a new quality to our society, we must be very solicitous and deferential toward the activity and labor of each generation of Soviet people. Absorb everything valuable achieved by previous experience and rid ourselves of everything that holds us back, burdens our society, and prevents socialism from revealing itself as a true people's system. From this argument I arrive precisely at the asnwer to the question raised here.

We are not indifferent to the past. We will be very attentive toward it and study it. I believe that we have still only just properly gotten this work under way and that it will lead us to very important discoveries and research. This will arm us and make us stronger in resolving the new tasks advanced by restructuring.

About the time frame for discussing particular documents and proposals which arise in the course of restructuring. The situation here is very contradictory. On the one hand, we want everything to proceed more quickly. On the other hand, and I am particularly keen on this, we want everything to be done thoroughly. We have submitted and will submit major proposals for nationwide discussion. If you consider that the basic principles of the political reform were set forth in the runup to the 19th party conference and in its decisions and resolutions, then I believe that the month we have scheduled for discussion will enable us to investigate everything properly. And it must also be borne in mind that we have to adopt the law and begin preparing for the elections. I believe they will be unique elections. And we must have sufficient time. But months are needed for this. The nomination and discussion of candidates will soon begin, and then there will be the voting. And in April—the USSR Congress of People's Deputies. This means that we are somehow bound up with this too. And again. We want this process to take place so as to resolve the question of restructuring the soviets at local level in the fall. Consequently, from this viewpoint too we must actively advance this process now.

So I would defend the suggestions you have made. And, moreover, I would appeal to you to intensify the discussion, but not cast doubt on the time frame. I have told you in what connection this time frame has come about, and so I invite you to conduct an active discussion.

I see that you still wish to speak. We will have to hold another meeting. (Animation, laughter). Did you want to speak? Please do.

Yu. Bausov, member of the Moscow Invalids Society Board responsible for work with young people: One way or another the problem of invalids is now beginning to be highlighted. We are beginning to understand that this really is a state problem. People want to be useful to society. They cannot be. There are no prosthetic appliances, no wheelchairs, no building where people might simply get together. And who, if not young people, should draw attention to the problems of young invalids? There are ideas with regard to this and already some experience. We must take a very serious approach to this, on a scientific level. We must cooperate.

M.S. Gorbachev: Good. More questions have appeared here. Many duplicate each other. But there are also new ones. People ask how the party will regulate its social composition after the 19th party conference abolished the schedule with regard to admissions to the party.

It will be regulated by the fact that party organizations will enhance exactingness toward selection for the party's ranks. We need genuine people who are devoted to the great idea. Here both the opinion of the Komsomol and the opinion of nonparty people will be appropriate and justified, and it must in general be an open [glasnyy] selection. I believe that if we create such a selection mechanism—let us call it this—we will safeguard the party against becoming a refuge for careerists and we will strengthen it. That is to say, democratization must ensure, here too, the influx of a genuine reinforcement devoted to the socialist idea. Let us together discuss how this will turn out. The Komsomol particularly must think about this, for two-thirds of the people who enter the party are Komsomol members. You have a great responsibility.

Here people are interested in the problem of preparing to create a legal service in the national economy. A big problem! We are starved of both economist and jurist cadres. We need a legal service, and for this it will be necessary to expand the legal cadre training program. This is simply a vital necessity.

Questions keep coming. I probably will not have time to answer them all. You know that I want to assure you that we will consider all your questions. All the same, I have managed to give a reply to the chief ones—political, large-scale questions. And I draw the conclusion that there must be more such meetings with me and other party and state leaders, that they must be more regular.

I am very pleased with this meeting, particularly the fact that it has been held in an atmosphere which did not exist only a few years ago, 2-3 years ago. This is remarkable in itself. This proves that restructuring is alive and growing stronger and that our Komsomol, our young people are on its side.

Once again I congratulate you on the Komsomol's 70th anniversary and wish you good achievements and successes!

Comrades L.N. Zaykov, V.A. Medvedev, and G.P. Razumovskiy participated in the meeting and the talks with young people.

Further Reportage on Supreme Soviet Session

Council of Elders Meeting

PM2810165788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Oct 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Sessions of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Councils of Elders"]

[Text] A joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Councils of Elders was held 26 October in the Kremlin to discuss questions of the agenda and the order of work for the 11th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation.

Yu.N. Khristoradnov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union, and A.E. Voss, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities, made speeches at the session.

A.I. Lukyanov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part in the session.

Kachura Delivers Coreport

PM3110143188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
29 Oct 88 Morning Edition pp 3, 4

[Coreport by the Budget and Planning Commission and other standing commissions of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, delivered by Deputy B.V. Kachura, chairman of the Budget and Planning Commission, at the 27 October afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union: "On the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1989 and on Progress in Plan Fulfillment in 1988, on the USSR State Budget for 1989, and on the Implementation of the State Budget in 1987"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Deputies! The 19th party conference imparted a new impetus and an especially businesslike mood to the work of the country's party, soviet, and economic organs. The atmosphere of democratization, the progress of the economic reform, and the transformation of the political system which has been launched predetermined substantial changes in the nature of the preliminary examination of the draft plan and budget by the commissions and demanded a more comprehensive and in-depth discussion of the documents submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet. Deputies concentrated their attention on practically solving the tasks of advancing along all avenues, especially those which directly concern the enhancement of the people's prosperity. After all, working people are in many respects dissatisfied with the way soviet and economic organs solve the pressing problems of economic and social development. This determined the deputies' high exactingness toward the leaders of the country's and the union republics' state organs who delivered reports and briefings to the commissions. As a rule, the discussion was pointed and principled.

In their assessments deputies proceeded from the premise that the 1989 plan targets will have to be attained in conditions of further deepening of economic reform. Soviet and economic organs will have to decisively overcome inertia of thinking and old-fashioned stereotypes and approaches. The cause's success will be determined by flexibility and initiative and by strict plan and financial discipline in all links of the national economy and in every sector of work.

In the findings which have been submitted to you, the standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities note that the draft plan and budget are aimed at deepening the economy's social reorientation. This can be seen primarily in the share of consumption as a proportion of utilized national income, which is higher than envisaged by the 5-year plan, and in the faster growth rate of production of goods for the population and of development of the service sphere. There will also be an increase in the proportion of capital investment channeled into the construction of housing and of social and cultural sphere projects. The entire growth of national income will be secured through labor productivity growth.

At the same time, and in the course of their discussions, the preparatory commissions drew the conclusion that a number of plan and budget indicators need substantial additional work. This applied primarily to the need to fully supply the material and technical resources for consumer goods production. It was also necessary to raise the capital investment quota for the development of the agro-industrial complex to the level of the 5-year plan targets, to balance capital investment and existing resources, to reduce the state budget deficit, and to clarify many other questions. The government was promptly informed of all remarks and suggestions by the deputies.

It can be seen from the reports by Comrades Maslyukov and Gostev that, on instructions from the government, the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Finance thoroughly and objectively examined the questions raised by deputies. On the whole, positive solutions were found to these questions. At the same time, the draft plan was drawn up with little slack. In this context, allow me to dwell on certain questions which, in the deputies' opinion, are of crucial importance for the future work to meet plan targets.

The first of them is the question of restructuring the activity of central economic organs and sectorial ministries and departments. The course of discussions in the commissions showed that the state of affairs along this most important avenue of economic reform is changing

only slowly. There are many instances where administrative diktat is preserved and nothing has been done to produce a mechanism for protecting enterprises' interests from unlawful actions by ministries and departments. There are instances of unsubstantiated setting and revision of economic normatives. State orders are not placed on a competitive basis in practice.

This situation cannot be tolerated. It is necessary to ensure that the USSR Law "On the State Enterprise (Association)" really provides a firm basis for enterprises' relations with ministries, departments, and territorial organs. The USSR Prosecutor's Office, the USSR State Board of Arbitration, and the USSR Committee of People's Control must effectively monitor the precise observance of the law's demands and must wage an uncompromising struggle against any distortion of its provisions by departmental instructions. It is necessary to accelerate work on regularizing and improving economic legislation in line with the demands of the radical economic reform and the accumulated experience of its implementation.

The second highly urgent question to whose solution the commissions drew special attention is the food problem. Even though the production of agricultural output is planned to grow next year and sizable imports are also planned, this will not be sufficient for any noticeable improvement of the food situation in the country. There is a need to resolutely overcome the lag in the sectors processing agricultural output and to sharply reduce losses in storage and transportation.

In this context it ought to be said that the Soviet of the Union Agro-Industrial Complex Commission raised the question of switching at least 10 percent of capital investments from industry to the countryside. But this proportion appears only as up to 10 percent in the findings handed out to you. This stems from the fact that, at the proposal of the standing commissions and as a result of plan amendments, capital investment in the agro-industrial complex has already been increased to the level of the 5-year plan targets. Any additional diversion of resources to meet its needs over and above the aforementioned amount would result in the nonfulfillment of other most important tasks. We ought not to take this path.

It is impossible to overlook the fact that the tremendous opportunities offered by the development of new relations in the economy's agrarian sectors, by team and family contracts and various forms of leasing, are still inadequately utilized to supplement food supplies. Good results are obtained wherever this work has been placed on a serious economic and organizational basis. Unfortunately, there are still numerous examples of all sorts of artificial obstacles, formalism, and delays in drawing up lease contracts. Very little is done in practical terms to supply contract collectives with the machinery and equipment they need. Shortages are often artificially created; for example, the shortage of tractors and other machinery for sale to rural lessees. The USSR Gosagroprom, union republic councils of ministers, and local soviets must appraise such instances in a principled fashion, must persistently solve social problems in the countryside, and must create conditions to ensure that rural working people become genuine masters of the land.

Deputies spoke with profound concern about the deteriorating quality of foodstuffs. They discussed with alarm the increasingly frequent instances of massive spoilage resulting from gross violations of production technology and from careless and uncontrolled application of chemical plant protection agents and mineral fertilizers. All this perturbs public opinion and often results in the emergence of acute situations. The commissions deem it necessary for the USSR Ministry of Health, the USSR State Committee for Standards, and the USSR State Committee for Environmental Control, together with the union republic councils of ministers, to immediately elaborate and implement an effective system of measures for universal monitoring, with public participation, of the quality of foodstuffs and the observance of technological, sanitary, and hygienic requirements in their production, storage, and marketing. People need to be assured of the proper quality of products, regardless of where they might have been produced or bought. It is primarily necessary to show concern for the quality of children's food products. The USSR Gosagroprom and local state and economic organs must solve the question of specialized production of biologically pure children's food products.

The situation is also acute as regards manufactured consumer goods. Sewing and washing machines, refrigerators, television sets, motorcycles, and many goods in daily demand have been in short supply for many years, and the draft plan does nothing to eliminate these shortages. A grave mistake was committed in the past by the USSR Gosplan and the relevant ministries when, instead of taking measures to expand the production of refrigerators that were in demand, they converted a number of plants and production units and failed to develop capacities for the manufacture of other consumer durables. This goes a long way toward explaining the fact that the level of provision of many technologically complex goods among the country's population is lower than in most European socialist countries. Articles like personal computers and videocassette recorders are virtually not on retail sale today.

In order to remedy matters, it is also planned to transfer several hundred Group "A" enterprises to the manufacture of consumer goods. But, in the commissions' opinion, these are just the first steps along the path of shaping a powerful consumer goods industry in the country, and the important point is not to halt there but to accelerate this development. All this makes it necessary for the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Gossnab to undeviatingly fulfill the government's directives regarding the priority provision of material and technical resources for the

production of consumer durables and other consumer goods. It is incumbent on ministries and departments to organize precise collaboration between enterprises to ensure steady deliveries of components according to the contracts that have been concluded. As regards the volumes of equipment production for light industry set for the machine-building and defense industry complexes, these must be seen as minimum quantities.

Comrade Deputies! It is well known that a broad debate is now under way in the country about the forthcoming reform of price formation. This reform must be a most important condition for the successful development of the radical economic reform. Of course, the restructuring of price formation does not mean across-the-board price rises; it means bringing prices into line with socially necessary expenditure. However, unjustified price rises for goods and services have recently become almost a matter of daily practice, and this causes justified complaints from the population. These questions were the topic of special discussion by the commissions.

The increase in prices and charges for many goods and services and the erosion of cheaper goods from the product range have an especially painful effect on the budgets of low-income families, large families, and pensioners. Light industry fulfills only around 35-70 percent of the trade network's orders for inexpensive children's products. There is a clear desire by enterprises to boost their revenues by introducing price markups for the output they manufacture without a corresponding quality improvement. Many cooperatives also make their contribution toward rising prices for goods and services. It is felt that the USSR State Committee for Prices, the USSR Ministry of Finance, and the USSR banks ought to create a mechanism to prevent the payment of unearned money. Specific and decisive measures are needed here. It became clear that so far the USSR State Committee for Prices, the USSR Ministry of Finance, and the USSR Gosplan have no clear-cut program for restructuring the price mechanism on an objective economic basis.

When summing up the results of the commissions' work, deputies expressed profound satisfaction that the CPSU Central Committee Politburo made a principled appraisal of the state of affairs regarding retail prices and charges, formulated the necessary instructions for the USSR Council of Ministers, and backed the AUCCTU's proposals to step up public monitoring of the observance of price discipline by state and cooperative organizations. The commissions sharply criticized the work of transport as regards serving the population. Serious accidents involving loss of life have become more frequent. This causes irreparable moral and material damage. It is evidently a matter of a lack of elementary order and discipline, a matter of poor standards of responsibility, a matter of a lag in the country's transportation network. The commissions demanded that the USSR Ministry of Railways, the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet reliably ensure passenger safety and launch an uncompromising struggle against indiscipline and slackness. The leaders of these ministries were instructed to move on from promises to specific organizational work to raise the standards of passenger service at railroad stations and airports and during journeys, and to improve the organization of ticket sales, availability of information, and other services.

Comrades! The questions of housing construction in the country were examined in detail and were reflected in the resolutions passed by the USSR Supreme Soviet's Ninth Session. The 1989 plan envisages major measures to fulfill the housing program. The commissioning of 13 million square meters of housing area will be in excess of the 5-year plan targets for that year. But this is no reason to rest satisfied. The housing situation is improving only slowly. Meanwhile, this year there has been a decline in the commissioning of housing and other social and cultural sphere projects against the corresponding period of last year.

Given proper organization of work, local soviet and economic organs can find additional reserves for increasing the housing stock. This means primarily the development of enterprising forms of new construction, thrifty utilization of the existing stocks, and prompt and proper repairs. But repair work on the housing stocks seems totally unable to get going properly. In addition to the chronic shortage of earmarked funds, this sphere is the last to be supplied with material resources. The country does not have a single major specialized enterprise for the production of equipment for repair work. This lack determines the high proportion of manual labor and the growing costs of capital repairs.

The commissions drew the attention of the USSR Gosstroy and the USSR Gosplan to the fact that they are insufficiently energetic in implementing the course of restructuring the investment process and boosting the efficiency of capital investment and the quality of construction work. The desire of ministries and departments to expand the front of construction work despite the existence of above-normative volumes of unfinished construction work is feebly countered.

As before, capital investments and labor, material, technical, and financial resources are dissipated among numerous construction sites. This year the number of new construction projects increased 27 percent compared with the last year of the last 5-year plan period. There has been virtually no reduction in the average construction time, which is more than twice the normative time. The estimated cost of projects is rising, as a rule. Stocks of uninstalled equipment are piling up. The planned commissioning of 80-90 percent of production capacities and state order projects in the fourth quarter of 1989 obviously raises doubts about the fulfillment of this plan. And yet there were plans to ensure the construction and commissioning of projects within the normative time back in the 12th 5-Year Plan period. The

USSR Gosstroy must sharply improve the quality of project studies and must seriously tackle questions of their economic justification and the quest for ways to reduce the costs of construction work.

The USSR Gosstroy, USSR Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, and union republic councils of ministers have failed to adopt adequate measures to eliminate the sector's enormous lag in the production of construction materials. There is a chronic failure to fulfill plans for the construction of facilities for the production of construction materials. During the first 2 years of the 5-year plan almost R600 million of state capital investments were not assimilated in the sector. In the current year the situation has not improved either, which is creating serious difficulties in the implementation of a strong social policy. Despite repeated decisions to fully provide material and technical resources for construction carried out by means of the direct labor method or funded from economic incentives funds, the problem is merely exacerbating as the earning capacity of enterprises increases.

Progress in improving the supply of construction materials to individual builders and house owners is extremely slow. Despite additional measures, the shortages affecting a series of items persist. The expanded issue of loans for individual construction and housing repairs is further exacerbating this problem. The USSR Gossnab must step up its work to seek out additional resources for the market, especially since this is its direct mission.

Without substantially improving the situation in capital construction, it will be impossible to achieve a breakthrough in accelerating the development of the economy and the social sphere. It is necessary to strictly abide by the decisions to reduce the number of construction starts and to channel efforts and resources into completing projects with a high level of readiness. The control functions of the banking system in this sphere must be intensified.

After the commissions raised the question of the need to balance the 1989 capital investment quota with material and technical resources, the USSR Gosplan found ways to improve the plan proportions. However, a great deal remains to be done. Programs to develop construction materials production and make the maximum use of local potential with a view to the successful fulfillment of the task of providing every family with its own apartment or house by the year 2000 will have to be strictly fulfilled in every republic, kray, and oblast. Construction plans can be successfully fulfilled only if the standard of organization is improved, plan and contract discipline is observed, and very strict resource saving is enforced.

An active investment policy, reduced material-intensiveness of the national income, and improved output quality are unthinkable without the national economy's greater receptiveness toward scientific and technical progress. However, it is no secret that the new economic mechanism has so far done little to induce labor collectives to introduce achievements of the current technological revolution. No tangible impact of technical progress is visible either in the sphere of resource saving and output quality improvement.

The commissions view with great concern the extremely unfavorable situation which has developed as regards the introduction of scientific and technological innovations and the chronic failure to fulfill plans for science and technology. Capital investments allocated for the development of the experimental and test base and the construction of scientific projects continue to be poorly assimilated. Intersectorial science-and-technology complexes have so far failed to become true organizers of the practical implementation of priority avenues of scientific and technical progress, and there are serious shortcomings in the work of academic and sector institutes.

In the coming year it is planned to increase the budget appropriations for the development of science by 20 percent. In his speech at the session Academician Marchuk described for us the promising prospects for the utilization of these appropriations. Scientists will have to work harder and become persistent champions and organizers of the practical implementation of their ideas. Deputies have a right to expect the USSR Academy of Sciences and the State Committee for Science and Technology to adopt measures and ensure major increases in new scientific knowledge and practical technologies matching up to world standards, and to open up broad access to science for young people.

Naturally, machine building has a special responsibility in ensuring the reliability and competitiveness of new machinery. Positive changes are taking shape in this sector—the rate of product renewal has accelerated and delivery discipline is being established. At the same time machine-building sector reports try to persuade us that there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of output which is up to the highest world standards. This is clearly a case of a relapse of an old ailment—varnishing the actual state of affairs. The main yardstick here is not a paper document claiming that standards have been met, but actual competitiveness with foreign goods, not just on the world market but also on the domestic market, in terms of price, quality, and reliability. Unfortunately, so far there are few examples of this kind.

The computerization [elektronizatsiya] of our machine building deserves special mention. It is obvious that without microprocessor technology the sector is based on yesterday's scientific progress. Many ministries must join on a large scale in creating the latest control systems, and the USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and the USSR Ministry of the Electronics Industry, in particular, must sharply increase the volume and quality of the goods

produced for this purpose. The USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine Building must coordinate the work of all ministries to ensure the production of modern control systems and to boost their activities in this sphere.

A very intensive discussion of ecological problems took place in the commissions. Deputies emphasized that the ecological situation in the country remains complex. In a number of regions and cities, especially the Urals, Siberia, the Donbass, and Kazakhstan, the environmental situation is even deteriorating. This has evoked justified protests from the population. It must be constantly borne in mind that a negligent attitude toward environmental protection today will inevitably necessitate immeasurably greater efforts tomorrow to rectify the mistakes—that is, if they are rectifiable.

Nevertheless, the USSR Ministry of Power and Electrification, the USSR Ministry of Nonferrous Metallurgy, and the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy are planning to commission fewer antipollution installations in 1989 than laid down in the 5-year plan. And the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry makes no provision for the commissioning of such installations at all. The USSR Ministry of the Coal Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, and a number of other ministries do not even plan to fully meet the targets for the protection of the atmosphere agaist pollution laid down by directive organs, although the enterprises of these ministries rank among the main polluters of the environment.

This state of affairs frequently results in an extremely negative attitude on the part of the public and local soviets to the siting of industrial production capacities in their area. Their stance is understandable, even if it is not correct or justified in all cases. Clearly, it is through the joint efforts of sector and territorial organs and the public that solutions should be sought making it possible to increase production without damaging people's health or the environment.

The foreign economic relations section of the plan envisages an expansion of the Soviet Union's participation in socialist economic integration. In addition to the development of trade, scientific and technical collaboration is being considerably expanded. The practice of business partnership between enterprises and organizations and companies in capitalist and developing countries is being enriched. At the same time, the commissions noted the serious lag in the fulfillment of plan targets for deliveries of export goods by the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Production of Mineral Fertilizers, and the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry. The USSR Ministry of Heavy and Transport Machine Building, the USSR Ministry of the Machine Tool and Tool Building Industry, and the USSR Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry unsatisfactorily fulfill their pledges for the delivery of machines and equipment.

The USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR Ministry of Finance, USSR ministries and departments, and union republic councils of ministers are advised to step up their work in the further expansion and deepening of foreign economic relations and to give enterprises specific assistance in building up their export potential and developing direct links with foreign partners on the basis of foreign currency self-capitalization and self-financing.

The commissions' findings also contain recommendations concerning other sections of the plan. In particular, the urgent need to ensure the full assimilation of funds allocated for the construction of new medical industry capacities and to supply health care establishments with equipment, medicines, and pharmaceutical preparations as a matter of priority is emphasized.

Comrade Deputies! As the USSR finance minister noted in his report, the budget deficit is a result of the material and financial imbalance of the economy and the slow growth in its efficiency. It has arisen because of the accumulated shortcomings and omissions of past years and also as a result of the need to resolve current economic tasks. This makes it incumbent on sector, republic, and local organs of management to tackle questions of improving the health of finances with greater responsibility and competence.

Revenue must be increased above all by mobilizing existing reserves in the national economy. At the same time it is necessary to step up organizational work to establish order in the expenditure of state funds and to actively utilize the advantages of the new methods of management for this purpose. It is extremely important to find ways of cutting expenditure in national economic sectors, more resolutely eliminate loss-making by enterprises and organizations, and enhance their efficiency. Forms such as the issue of shares and other securities in order to bring into circulation the financial resources of the population, enterprises, and cooperatives should be used more boldly.

The main method for improving the country's economic and financial situation is consistent progress along the road of radical economic reform and the development of lease relations. The USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Gosplan, and USSR ministries and departments are advised by the commissions to implement more resolutely the switch of enterprises to the second model of economic accountability. This will enable labor collectives to operate with better incentives, more independence, and better results.

The commissions believe that it would be expendient to submit in the future proposals regarding the maximum size of the domestic state debt for discussion by the USSR Supreme Soviet. In this context it is also necessary to set specific deadlines for the repayment of credits used to reduce the budget deficit. In the course of the implementation of the budget, the government, central economic organs, USSR ministries and departments, and union republic councils of ministers must continue work to identify additional revenue and cut expenditure.

As a result of the examination of the USSR State Budget for 1989, the commissions have identified the possibility of the additional production of R1,696.6 million of goods, thereby increasing budget revenue by R1,425.5 million. And R1,303 million of this is to be channeled into decreasing the budget deficit and R122.5 million toward strengthening the material and technical base of rural general educational schools and settlement and rural soviets and providing amenities in cities, worker settlements, and rural rayon centers.

The standing commissions proposed that the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1989 and the USSR State Budget for 1989 be approved, taking account of the aforementioned amendments and the clarifications already adopted by the government. The commissions also proposed that the report on the implementation of the budget for 1987 in the sums submitted by the government be approved.

Comrades! The deputies greeted with satisfaction the draft USSR Law on Amendments and Additions to the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the USSR and the draft Law on Elections of USSR People's Deputies which have been submitted for nationwide discussion. They are now being studied with great interest everywhere.

In 1989 there will be elections to our country's supreme organ of power, which will form a new structure of central state organs. The reform of the political system will naturally lead to a substantial expansion of the rights of soviets at all levels and the enhancement of their responsibility for comprehensive socioeconomic development, will activate Soviet people's civic stance, and will involve millions of working people in the practical management of the country. The pooling of the soviets' efforts with the initiative of the labor collectives will undoubtedly provide real opportunities for advancing the restructuring of our society in the coming year, strengthening the country's economy, and enhancing the Soviet people's living standards. In order to achieve this, comrades, we will all have to work to maximum effect.

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[Text] Comrade Deputies! The present USSR Supreme Soviet session is taking place in the atmosphere of active work under way to implement the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums. Today we are at the stage where the introduction of the new economic mechanism marches in close formation with the reform of the political system and the entire potential of the soviets is being brought into play. A keen discussion of the draft laws on amendments and additions to the USSR Constitution and on elections of USSR people's deputies has already started in the country. All this should give a mighty boost to our movement forward.

In view of the peculiarities of this stage, on instructions from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium the standing commissions of the Soviet of Nationalities, along with the standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union, made a preliminary examination of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR and the USSR State Budget for 1989, analyzed the progress made in implementing the plan targets of the current year and the implementation of the budget for 1987, and came up with the findings which you have in front of you, Comrade Deputies.

Assessing the economic situation in the country as a whole in 1988, the deputies stressed that the restructuring and renewal under way in all spheres of society's life have made it possible to achieve certain positive results in national economic development. But a fundamental improvement of the economic situation has not yet occurred, as has already been mentioned in the reports.

The commissions pointed out a number of difficulties in the socioeconomic development process. There has been no cardinal improvement in the utilization of the achievements of scientific-technical progress. The switch to the resource-saving types of reproduction has been too slow. Discipline and responsibility are poor in some areas of the national economy. The upshot is that the requisite advances have not yet been achieved in a number of sectors, particularly in those that are directly associated with the improvement of the people's living conditions.

Many USSR ministries and departments and union republic councils of ministers have reduced management restructuring to cutting the central apparatus and changing its structure and they are in no hurry to improve their work style and methods. They are not giving the requisite assistance to enterprises to enable their labor collectives to really exploit the opportunities offered by economic accountability and self-financing and to rapidly become genuine masters of production.

During the discussion of the 1989 plan the deputies arrived at the conclusion that the plan is geared to eliminating the shortcomings that have been mentioned, deepening and developing the positive trends in the economy and bringing about its social reorientation, and further democratizing production relations.

It should be stressed that the planned rate of growth of per capita incomes, social consumption funds, and a number of other general economic indicators ensures the attainment of the targets of the 4th year of the 5-year plan.

There has been a substantial step in the direction of intensifying economic methods of leadership. There has been a drastic reduction in the composition of state orders, which radically restricts coercive pressure from the center, giving enterprises greater independence in shaping their own production programs. In these conditions there has been a massive increase in the significance of direct contract links between enterprises and of ensuring their stability and mutual advantage.

The growth of wholesale trade in the means of production is important too. The plan reflects the increased role and responsibility of local management bodies for the comprehensive socioeconomic development of regions on the basis of the principles of self-management and territorial self-financing and self-sufficiency.

All this creates the essential preconditions for achieving a new quality of economic growth and for consistently solving vital problems of the people's welfare.

During the examination of the plan the commissions sought out potential for increasing the production and sale of consumer goods to the tune around R1.7 billion in retail prices and propose that the plan for 1989 be ratified in the light of these amendments.

Examining the USSR State Budget for 1989, the commissions stressed that it has been elaborated on the basis of the plan indicators, with a view to the upcoming completion of the transfer of enterprises in all production sectors of the national economy to complete economic accountability and self-financing, and it basically ensures the implementation of the socioeconomic program for next year.

At the same time, as has already been said, the budget is a very tough one and its deficit mirrors the complexities in the development of the national economy.

In view of the reserves uncovered by the commissions, it is proposed that USSR State Budget revenue be increased by R1,425.5 million. It is proposed that R1,303 million of this be used to reduce the State Budget deficit and R122.5 million for capital repairs at general educational schools in the countryside, for the acquisition of equipment and capital repair of settlement and rural soviets' premises, and for the provision of amenities in cities, worker settlements, and rural rayon centers.

It would be advisable to allocate the R122.5 million of appropriations to union republican budgets in the following amounts (thousands of rubles):

RSFSR	67,690
Ukrainian SSR	19,710
Belorussian SSR	5,870
Uzbek SSR	5,430
Kazakh SSR	7,610
Georgian SSR	2,040
Azerbaijan SSR	2,080
Lithuanian SSR	2,450
Moldavian SSR	1,810
Latvian SSR	1,660
Kirghiz SSR	1,480
Tajik SSR	1,260
Armenian SSR	1,300
Turkmen SSR	1,020
Estonian SSR	1,090

It is proposed, taking into account the amendments that have been made, that the USSR State Budget for 1989 be ratified with revenue at R458,814,445,000 and expenditure at R494,797,545,000, that is with expenditure exceeding revenue by R34,983,100,000.

The commissions also examined the report on the implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1987 and propose its ratification in the amounts submitted by the USSR Government.

Comrades! The budget imbalance prompted a more detailed and comprehensive examination of financial problems. A special preparatory committee was set up for that purpose. Analysis showed that the strain in the budget is due to serious shortcomings in economic activity that have accumulated over a long time, including the recent period, the extensive methods and expenditure-based approaches that are still rife, the unfavorable foreign market situation, and the influence of other negative factors. At the same time, it was stressed that in conditions of the considerable budget deficit, reserves for reducing it have not been fully brought into play.

Central economic departments, sectorial management bodies, and union republic councils of ministers were told to conduct a more vigorous quest for any potential ways of swelling revenue and more resolutely renouncing expenditure that can be put off until the future, and to make a more positive effort to introduce in all national economic components strict measures to save state resources.

An important direction of work should be to improve production efficiency and reduce as much as possible the number of loss-making enterprises, which cost the economy around R11 billion. This work must be made concrete and efficient in such a way as to ensure that all enterprises are non-lossmaking before the end of the current 5-year plan. A resolute struggle should be waged to reduce above-normative stocks of commodities and materials, which can still be found at between one-third and one-half of enterprises in the machine-building, fuel and power, metallurgical, and chemical and timber complexes.

Unproductive expenditure and losses, which constitute around R15 billion in kolkhozes and sovkhozes alone, cannot be tolerated, because they are a big burden on the economy.

Today's budget problems are to a considerable extent due to the low standard of financial work of union republic management bodies. There is still a strong orientation toward obtaining nonreturnable funds from the state. There is irrational expenditure of labor, material, and financial resources. At many enterprises pay growth is outstripping labor productivity growth. In the RSFSR, the Ukrainian SSR, the Transcaucasian republics, and the Turkmen SSR retail trade turnover plans are not being met.

The commissions back the government's decision to distribute the union budget deficit among the union republics' budgets. The improvement of the condition of the state budget is the common task of central and local bodies and it must be carried out jointly, with active use being made of all available reserves.

Comrade Deputies! Permit me to dwell on certain areas of work to examine the draft plan for 1989. I intend to highlight those areas which have to be tackled primarily by union and autonomous republics and local soviets. I believe this approach is more in line with the functions of our chamber.

In the first place it should be noted that by and large deputies were more active in this work. There was a more concrete approach, greater efficiency, and a joint constructive quest together with ministries and departments for unorthodox approaches to the solution of key problems. There was a detailed examination of questions of balancing plans and it was stressed that this task can only be solved if there are the strictest savings of metal, fuel, power, and other resources.

At the same time, it was noted that certain indicators do not fully accord with party and state guidelines. Therefore a number of preparatory commissions expressed the view that it is impossible to recommend them in that form for ratification by the USSR Supreme Soviet.

This applied above all to questions of providing light industry with raw materials and supplies, making the construction program better balanced, increasing capital investments and resources for the agro-industrial complex, and intensifying control of price formation.

The USSR Council of Ministers was informed of the deputies' opinion. In accordance with the USSR Government's instructions, these problems were thoroughly investigated at the USSR Gosplan and other interested ministries and departments. It can be reported with satisfaction at today's chamber session that there have been positive decisions on most of them.

In the analysis of the plan priority attention was given to questions of seeking ways of solving the food problem, increasing production of consumer goods and services, accelerating the construction of facilities in the social sphere, and making the environment healthier.

There is no problem more vital and important at the moment than the fundamental improvement of food supplies for the population. This gave the examination of the problem a particular intensity and commitment. It was noted that the solution of tasks of increasing production and ensuring regional self-sufficiency in essential food products should be based on bringing into play underlying production growth factors—intensifying and increasing the stability of crop farming and livestock raising—making effective use of intensive and waste-free technologies, extensively developing contract relations, and intensifying scientific support for the agro-industrial complex.

In this connection there was harsh criticism of machine-building ministries' enterprises, which in large measure determine scientific-technical progress in agriculture. The USSR Ministry of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building has been slow to switch to the production of much machinery that is essential to the countryside and is continuing to produce equipment for which there is no demand because of its technical specifications or cost. This year alone farms have rejected equipment of this type worth more than R800 million.

The deputies also demanded that the bodies managing the agro-industrial complex in the center and at local level improve the return on all types of allocated funds and resources. Instances of unsatisfactory use of the established production potential, mismanagement, and extravagance cannot be tolerated. This turnaround must be made immediately since the return on capital is continuing to decline in agriculture. In many regions use of mineral fertilizers is inefficient and utilization of equipment is poor. The annual withdrawal of irrigated land from economic use has virtually matched the commissioning of areas.

The USSR Gosagroprom, USSR Gosplan, and union republic councils of ministers must fully exploit such an important reserve as reducing product losses. But without a fundamental change in attitudes toward the development of capacities for processing and storing agricultural products, real advances cannot be achieved in this area. Unfortunately, the capital investments allocated for the development of the processing base are poorly assimilated. In the first 2 years of the 5-year plan they were underutilized to the tune of R1 billion. This situation cannot be allowed to continue.

One of the chief conditions of the acceleration of the development of the agro-industrial complex is the improvement of economic relations. The commissions cited examples where, given the same capital- and power-labor ratios and the same resources, but with a transfer to the lease system, collectives have quickly succeeded in doubling and even trebling output. At the same time, by and large people are still rather timid when it comes to adopting the lease system. There are various reasons for this. They include inadequate training of cadres and covert resistance on the part of some leaders. There is a conflict between the development of this form and the prevailing system of management and provision of lessees with the requisite technology, equipment, and credits. Advanced experience is poorly disseminated.

The commissions consider that the USSR Gosagroprom, the USSR Agro-Industrial Bank, the All-Union V.I. Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and union republic councils of ministers should more actively and persistently ensure the establishment of favorable conditions for the development of collective, family, and lease contracts and remove the barriers standing in their way.

The deputies stressed that the food problem cannot be radically solved without the comprehensive social restructuring of the countryside. But around 40 percent of farmhouses constructed in the countryside in recent years have none of the standard types of amenities. The gap between the countryside and the city in terms of trade, medical, cultural, and consumer services is not narrowing. So rural workers have to stand for hours, sometimes days in city lines waiting to acquire essential goods and obtain services. Because of shortcomings in the allocation of commodity resources regionally and among trade systems, we have a situation where only 1, or at the most 3, in 100 potential customers living in the countryside can obtain an overcoat or suit on the spot.

The USSR Gosagroprom, USSR Gosstroy, and union republic councils of ministers must in every way increase efforts to solve the rural social problems, sharply improve the standard of comprehensive, high-quality development of population centers, and resolutely eliminate discrepancies between services for the urban and rural populations.

Comrade Deputies! The 1989 plan envisages a further increase in capital investments in the development of the social and cultural sphere. In parts of Siberia it is planned to construct 10 percent more and in the Far East 22 percent more housing than envisaged in the 5-year plan.

But the measures being taken by soviet and economic organs frequently fail to bring about a real reduction in waiting lists for housing. The 9-month plan for the commissioning of housing was not fulfilled. The Estonian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Latvian SSR, Uzbek SSR, and a number of other union republics failed to meet the targets.

People often clearly underestimate an increase in the volume of capital repair of housing for family occupation as one way of improving citizens' housing conditions. The already low targets for this type of work are regularly not met.

There is a big lag in the construction of education and culture facilities. Disproportions in the development of municipal services are slow to disappear. In many cities and population centers the water supply situation has deteriorated and there is an acute shortage of heat supplies. Moreover, there is a regular failure to fulfill plans for the commissioning of utilities. This kind of construction is poorly implemented in the Moldavian SSR and the Kirghiz SSR.

Taking the bitter experience of past years into account, the deputies devoted great attention to the question of preparing municipal services for the winter and noted that repair work at many RSFSR and Ukrainian SSR power industry facilities is considerably behind schedule. Fuel supplies to the population are poorly organized in a number of areas. This is linked to clear omissions by the republic and local organs for which these questions are the main task. It will be on the basis of their decisions that the population will judge the ability and desire of those organs' leaders to restructure themselves in line with the new demands.

Comrades! For the first time in recent years the 1989 plan for industry sets growth rates for Group "B" products that are almost double the growth rates for Group "A" products. Consumer goods output volume considerably exceeds the 5-year plan target. However, this does not remove the difficulties regarding goods supply and will have virtually no effect on reducing working people's pent-up demand for them. This indicator is also not entirely satisfactory because consumers are waiting not just for goods, but for quality goods. At the moment most articles manufactured by USSR Ministry of Light Industry enterprises and even Defense Ministry enterprises are not up to modern standards and are bought through lack of choice and acute shortages.

The question of prices was a subject of special discussion in the preparatory commissions. It was noted that many enterprises' efforts are channeled not into boosting production and improving the quality of goods, but into seeking additional income through unjustified price hikes which do not reflect any real change in consumer qualities, or through reducing output of inexpensive items. Thus enterprises under the jurisdiction of the RSFSR, Ukrainian SSR, and Lithuanian Ministries of Light Industry obtained more than half of their profit growth in the first 6 months of this year through such means.

In the course of the discussion it transpired that the USSR State Committee on Prices has not yet worked out a clear strategic line on these issues; their resolution should not be left to the vagaries of chance. It is necessary to employ both economic measures and measures of an organizational nature.

The concluding sessions of the standing commissions noted with satisfaction that the CPSU Central Committee Politburo had specially discussed these issues and given instructions to the USSR Government to boost output of various goods in light of the needs of various population groups and to step up monitoring of price and income levels. Measures to enhance the public's role in this work were also supported.

The commissions sharply discussed the question of developing the services sphere. Despite the large unsatisfied demand for paid services, the targets for their implementation are not being met in the Uzbek SSR, the Azerbaijan SSR, and the Armenian SSR, and are not being fulfilled by one-third of all-union ministries.

The demand for services involving repairs to complex domestic equipment is not being met. And this at a time when 1 in every 8 or 10 refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, televisions, or radios owned by citizens needs repair. Services involving housing construction and repairs and services linked with physical fitness, sport, leisure, and tourism are being developed too slowly.

The commissions' discussion of the state of affairs in the motor service system laid bare the acuteness and neglected state of these matters. There is a whole mass of problems in this area that have become a serious impediment to its development. The existing network can only half-satisfy the demand from car owners, and most spares are available only 60-80 percent of the time. Speculation and other negative phenomena have flourished in these conditions. As is well known, the task has been set of resolving this issue before the end of the current 5-year plan. After the report from the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry the deputies got the impression that the sector headquarters is still just discussing the difficulties associated with this task. Yet if it is not put into practice immediately disruption will be inevitable—that is why temporization in this area is simply impermissible.

In resolving the problems of meeting the population's demand for goods and services, a great deal depends on the development and introduction of cooperative forms. The commission sessions analyzed the practice of implementing the Law on the Cooperative System in the USSR. The deputies stressed that there are still many obstacles to developing this movement. Questions of supplying cooperatives with material and technical resources are being resolved poorly and a specialized wholesale network is not being developed, as a result of which cooperative members have been forced to acquire goods in short supply from the retail trade network, thereby exacerbating the already strained situation with regard to such goods. The population has been making many complaints about the exorbitant prices of many articles produced by cooperatives, which are often acquired in the state network and, after a small amount of additional work, are resold to the population for a much higher price. The law imposes restrictions on this, but local organs are not monitoring the observance of the aforementioned demands.

The commissions believe that, on the basis of the tasks of ensuring the accelerated buildup of consumer goods and paid services, the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Social Development, union republic councils of ministers, ministries, and departments must lead this sphere in a good quality and new way, provide effective assistance to enterprises in strengthening the material and technical base of this sphere, and create conditions for improving labor collectives' interest and for boosting cooperatives' contribution to this work.

The problem of health care was particularly highlighted within the range of social questions under examination. The reasons behind its long-standing lag have now been revealed and publicized. The supply of medical equipment and hardware remains one of the questions hardest to resolve. The USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems, which is the head body in this respect, failed to fulfill the 9-month plan for deliveries of some of the most important types of medical instruments. The quality of equipment produced remains low. The construction and fitting out of health care installations is badly organized, particularly in the Moldavian SSR, the Tajik SSR, and the Turkmen SSR—and this despite the fact that there is a large shortage of hospital beds and one-third of the country's hospitals are in a dangerous or ramshackle condition.

We cannot fail to dwell on the unsatisfactory situation with regard to medicines. Certain of the most important means for treating cardiovascular, endocrine, and other widespread diseases are no more than 20-30 percent

available, and this situation is deteriorating. This is an intolerable state of affairs. There are even long holdups in the sale of such everyday medicines as validol, nitroglycerine, and others.

The USSR Ministry of Instrument Making, Automation Equipment, and Control Systems and the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry, together with the USSR Gosplan and the USSR Ministry of Health, must resolve questions of strengthening the material and technical base of health care more actively.

It was noted at the sessions that many problems linked with protecting the population's health have been exacerbated as a result of ecological problems not being resolved. The nature conservation measures that are being implemented is by no means adequate, and the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, the USSR Ministry of the Medical and Microbiological Industry, and the Councils of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Turkmen SSR are even planning to cut capital investment for these purposes in comparison with the 5-year plan targets.

In many regions and industrial centers the state of affairs in the sphere of nature conservation is deteriorating and gives grounds for well-founded alarm on the part of the public. This leads in practice to local organs refusing to grant permission for chemical and other production facilities to be sited on their territories. This approach has some justification, since the elaboration of projects and the construction of installations that do not accord with the demands of nature conservation legislation continue.

The commissions propose seeking a solution to these problems not by banning the further development of the sector, but by accelerating the introduction of ecologically safe equipment and technologies and beefing up controls in this area. Ministries, departments, local soviets, and the public need to pull together to resolve these questions.

Comrade Deputies! The 1989 plan proceeds from the need to create conditions for greater economic independence for union and autonomous republics and to expand the initiative and creativity of local soviet and economic organs in ensuring the comprehensive socioeconomic development of territories and regions taking account of national and other features.

As M.S. Gorbachev has stressed, soviets should become genuine and supreme masters in their own territory and rectify the abnormal situation prevailing in many areas as a consequence of departmental domination.

Deputies discussed the major shortcomings in the work of individual republic and local organs under the new economic management conditions. Bureaucratic management methods are still strongly evident in the leadership of subordinate enterprises, and freeloading and parochial sentiments are being eradicated too slowly.

There is great potential for improving economic efficiency inherent in the mechanism of territorial economic accountability that is being formed. Next year, as was noted in the report, a number of republics and regions will be switched to this form on a trial basis. The corresponding state organs should show the utmost attention in implementing this plan in order to ensure that accumulated experience is effectively used to introduce everywhere the principles of self-management, territorial self-financing, and self-sufficiency.

The commissions noted that not all republic and local organs are utilizing the rights accorded them in developing foreign economic relations. The economic reform has given them new levers in this area. However, these are being insufficiently implemented and the potential for expanding border and coastal trade is being expanded only poorly.

Union republic councils of ministers and local soviets have been instructed to be more persistent and consistent in seeking out and bringing into play all territorial reserves for economic intensification, bearing in mind the all-union division of labor and stepping up mutual relations between republics and regions, and to strive to improve the financial condition of the economy under their jurisdiction.

Examining the plan and budget for 1989, the commissions also made specific recommendations on questions of the activity of the machine-building, metallurgical, fuel and energy, chemical and timber, and construction complexes, transportation, communications, and the development of other national economic sectors.

I must also mention the fulfillment of voters' instructions. As is well known, a great deal has been done in this area. However, a number of instructions have not yet been carried out. These should not be forgotten by ministries and departments even after the powers of this convocation of the USSR Supreme Soviet expire.

Comrade Deputies! The role and place of 1989 is determined to a considerable extent by the fact that it largely shapes the makeup of the economy for 1990, which will be the base year for the 13th 5-Year Plan. This places a special responsibility on all soviet and economic organs to ensure fulfillment of plan targets.

The commissions express confidence that the fundamental transformations in society, the democratization of all its spheres, the strengthening of the soviets' powers, and the qualitatively new approach to the makeup and activities of the country's supreme organ of state power will make it possible to fulfill the large-scale tasks of restructuring more successfully.

2d Day Proceedings Summarized

PM3110165388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Oct 88 Morning Edition p1

[Unattributed "Information Report On USSR Supreme Soviet Sittings"]

[Text] The 11th USSR Supreme Soviet session continued its work in Moscow on 28 October 1988.

At 1000 hours the first sitting of the Soviet of Nationalities took place in the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' meeting hall. The sitting was chaired by A.E. Voss, chairman of the chamber.

Those present rose to their feet in respect for the memory of Deputy V.P. Mironov, deceased.

N.I. Maslennikov, chairman of the Budget and Planning Commission, presented the coreport of the Budget and Planning Commission and other standing commissions on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1989, on progress made in implementing the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1988, on the USSR State Budget for 1989, and on the implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1987.

The following deputies addressed the session during the debate on these issues: M.V. Kovalev, G.G. Bedareva, V.P. Anishchev, I.M. Belalov, V.A. Dinkov, M.A. Tsiskarishvili, I.P. Kubilyus, V.A. Protsenko, S.N. Yelayev, E.A. Paap, and S.V. Bashilov.

The second sitting of the Soviet of the Union took place at 1400 hours in the Great Kremlin Palace. The sitting was chaired by Yu.N. Khristoradnov, chairman of the chamber.

The discussion of the second and third items on the session agenda continued. The following deputies spoke during the debate: K.S. Salykov, Ye.F. Bashmakov, V.P. Kuchina, A.A. Logunov, A.V. Karpov, USSR Minister of Culture V.G. Zakharov, M.Yu. Yusupov, V.I. Timochkin, N.A. Polaznov, and L.V. Sharin.

The second sitting of the Soviet of Nationalities took place in the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers' meeting hall. The sitting was chaired by A.E. Voss, chairman of the chamber.

The following deputies took part in the discussion of the second and third items on the agenda: A.K. Zitmanis, Z. Mamatov, K.G. Martirosyan, T.M. Mirkhalikov, V.A. Faustov, K.A.K. Abasov, S.M. Nesterenko, G.S. Rybakova, Ye.A. Yeliseyev, and A.S. Kulenov.

On this the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities concluded their discussion of the second and third items on the session agenda.

At 1700 hours the second joint sitting of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities took place in the Great Kremlin Palace. The sitting was chaired by Yu.N. Khristoradnov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union.

Deputy Yu.D. Maslyukov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and chairman of the USSR Gosplan, presented the closing speech on the question of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1989 and progress made in implementing the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1988.

The USSR Supreme Soviet adopted the Law on the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR for 1989, incorporating the amendments submitted by the Budget and Planning Commissions and other standing commissions of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities, and also a Resolution on Progress in Implementing the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1988.

Deputy B.I. Gostev, USSR finance minister, presented the closing speech on the question of the USSR State Budget for 1989 and implementation of the USSR State Budget for 1987.

The USSR Supreme Soviet ratified the USSR State Budget and approved the Law on the USSR State Budget for 1989, incorporating the amendments submitted by the Budget and Planning Commissions and other standing commissions of the chambers, and also a Resolution on the Ratification of the Report on the Fulfillment of the USSR State Budget for 1987.

The session heard a report by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on the Presidium decrees submitted for approval by the USSR Supreme Soviet. The following deputies addressed the session on this question: P.P. Goryunov, A.S. Sukhanov, and V.A. Zgurskiy. The USSR Supreme Soviet approved the decrees submitted.

With this the 11th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation, concluded its work.

Voting Data Detailed

PM0111100588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Yesterday in the Kremlin"]

[Text] A spirit of realism and great sense of responsibility for the fate of restructuring have distinguished the work of the people's representatives at the 11th session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, 11th convocation. This approach, deputies stressed, is the basis for resolving the tasks of radical economic reform and making far-reaching social and political transformations in line with the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference precepts.

Sittings of the Soviet of Nationalities and Soviet of the Union were held on 28 October, as well as a joint sitting of the chambers of the country's supreme organ of power which, after an all-around discussion, gave the State Plan for Economic and Social Development and the State Budget for 1989 the force of law.

The following took part in the sittings: M.S. Gorbachev, V.I. Vorotnikov, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, V.A. Medvedev, N.I. Ryzhkov, N.N. Slyunkov, V.M. Chebrikov, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, A.N. Yakovlev, A.P. Biryukova, A.V. Vlasov, A.I. Lukyanov, Yu.D. Maslyukov, G.P. Razumovskiy, Yu.F. Solovyev, N.V. Talyzin, D.T. Yazov, and O.D. Baklanov.

At the second joint sitting of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers, the participants voted on the proposal to ratify the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Procedure for the Organization and Holding of Meetings, Rallies, Street Marches, and Demonstrations in the Soviet Union.

In the Soviet of Nationalities 685 deputies took part in the vote: 672 were in favor, 12 against, with 1 abstention.

In the Soviet of the Union 697 deputies took part in the vote: 696 were in favor and 1 against.

The decree was ratified by an absolute majority of votes by deputies of the Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities.

A vote then took place on ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Rights and Obligations of USSR MVD Internal Troops in the Protection of Public Order.

In the Soviet of Nationalities 656 deputies voted in favor of ratifying the decree, with 25 against and 4 abstentions.

The results of the vote in the Soviet of the Union were announced. A total of 691 voted in favor and 6 against.

This means that the decree has been approved by an absolute majority of deputies in both chambers of the Supreme Soviet.

The session approved the USSR Law on the Ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree "On Transforming the Union Republic USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry into the All-Union USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry" and on Introducing Amendments to Articles 23 and 24 of the USSR Law "On the USSR Council of Ministers"; it also approved the USSR Law "On the Ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decrees on Introducing Amendments and Addenda to Certain USSR Legislative Acts."

In a simultaneous vote, deputies of both chambers unanimously approved the resolution on the ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the Release from Duty and Appointment of USSR Ministers.

In a simultaneous vote, deputies of both chambers unanimously approved the resolution on the ratification of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decrees on Changes in the Composition of the USSR Supreme Court.

RSFSR Council of Ministers, Commissions Meet

LD3110215388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] The members of the standing commissions of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet today completed discussing the Russian Federation's plan and budget with an eye toward restructuring.

Addenda have been inserted into the drafts on the insistence of deputies who had pointed to documents with a social aim which were also adopted today at the meeting of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. It has been decided to submit them for examination at the forthcoming session of the republic's Supreme Soviet, which will open in Moscow on 10 November.

It must be said that now is precisely the time for deputies' advice regarding the program for the forthcoming year.

Tomorrow similar questions will be examined at the Moldavian Supreme Soviet session.

Vorotnikov Attends Sessions

LD3110232888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 31 Oct 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The second plenary meeting between the planning and budget commission and representatives of other standing commissions of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet took place today. The discussion on the drafts of the state plan and budget for the Russian Federation for the 4th year of the 5-year plan continued. Comrade Vorotnikov spoke at the meeting.

On the same day, there was a meeting of the RSFSR Council of Ministers at which the drafts of the state plan for economic and social development and the state budget for the Russian Federation for 1989 were considered.

The Council of Ministers basically approved the drafts of the plan and budget of the republic, and adopted a decision on submitting them for consideration by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. Comrade Vorotnikov took part in the work of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation.

Andreyeva Grants 'First Political Interview'

LD3010195188 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1712 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Zagreb, October 30 (TANJUG)—Zagreb daily VJESNIK today publishes a comprehensive interview with Nina Andreyeva, master of science and lecturer in physical chemistry at the Leningrad Institute of Technology whose letter entitled, "I Cannot Renounce Principles" was published by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on March 13 this year. The letter was later criticized in PRAVDA and denounced as a "manifesto of the conservatives."

In what the Yugoslav paper calls her "first political interview"—in fact written answers to its questions sent beforehand—Andreyeva says she does not regret at all the pubication of her letter "which reflects the situation that has arisen in our country." She claims to have received more than 3,000 collective or individual letters not only from her compatriots at home but also from abroad, 90 per cent whom "share my position and assessments."

Those who reject her views, claims Nina Andreyeva, are either relatives of former kulaks and persected persons, or "resentful nationalists," Zionists and persons who "a priori repudiate socialism."

In the interview Andreyeva states that she, like the majority of Soviet people, proceeds from the assumption that "perestroyka has no alternative, that there is no returning to the period of stagnation."

"The question is only what course will the perestroyka take, a course of development and perfectioning of the socialist principles of economic activity and socialist democratization of society or a course of petty bourgeois degeneration and decay...the struggle of socialist and non-socialist elements is often misinterpreted in mass media as a struggle of champions and opponents of perestroyka"—she says.

Andreyeva asserts, claiming to quote an idea of Gorbachev, that the "terms 'Stalinism' and 'neo-Stalinism' have been invented by the opponents of communism who widely use them for slinging mud at the Soviet Union and socialism in general."

In an exhaustive answer to a VJESNIK question, Andreyeva discloses the content of her second open letter, the one which she addressed to the 19th conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union last summer, but which has not been published yet. She says that "the letter was sent to a number of editorial boards" and that "its publishing is a matter of party consciousness of their editors in chief."

In the letter, says Andreyeva, she warned that "the fixing of communist prospects for the country found no place" in the theses for the conference. She also claims that the theses "onesidedly and incompletely" present the social structure of the soviet society, that more than 100,000 millionaires have appeared in the Soviet Union in Brezhnev's period of stagnation and that they, jointly with the corrupt bureaucracy, make up a special section of the Soviet society with their own interests, demands, psychology, morality and ideology which have not been fully formulated yet.

Andreyeva says she has indicated that millionaires may also be found among members of the CPSU and suggested the introduction of an income level limit for party members, believing that this could put a bar on the road towards "polluting the party ranks."

The Yugoslav paper recalls that the publication of Andreyeva's first letter was followed, among other things, by demands for her expulsion from the party. However, she remained a member of the CPSU and last month she was re-elected lecturer at the institute for another five-year term.

Arrests Made on 'Political Prisoners' Day'

AU3110164788 Paris AFP in English 1627 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, Oct 31 (AFP)—Police arrested more than 60 people Sunday at a large demonstration in Minsk honoring victims of Stalin's purges and at smaller protests in four other Soviet towns to mark the dissident-proclaimed "Political Prisoners' Day", dissident sources said Monday.

Police and security forces, using teargas and water cannon, battled 4,000 people for three hours in Minsk, capital of the Belorussian republic, said Sergei Grigoriants, of the unofficial review GLASNOST.

Fourteen people were arrested—including local trade union members, artists and writers—and 10 of them were ordered to pay 100-rouble fines (equivalent to half a month's salary), he said.

Authorities had banned the demonstration, called by the Memorial group and local artists' unions. But in Moscow, the same group's first large meeting, attended by delegates from around the country, went ahead with official backing.

In Leningrad, hundreds of demonstrators holding candles observed a minute of silence in front of Kazan Cathedral and called for the release of political prisoners.

One of the participants, Avram Diumin, said they appealed particularly for the release of Leningrad residents Leonid Lubman, Boris Mitiashin and Mikhail Kazachkov.

When police detained 32 of the demonstrators, thousands more surrounded the downtown police station where they were being held, causing police to arrest another 12 people.

One woman was sentenced to nine days in prison and other people were ordered to pay fines of up to 200 roubles.

In the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, police dispersed more than 100 people near a local Soviet secret service office.

Meanwhile in Moscow, at least six people were arrested at two demonstrations in Pushkin Square, the second of which drew 400 people, dissident sources said.

A demonstration by almost 2,000 people in the Georgian city of Tbilisi, called by the newly-created independent "Democratic National Party", went off without police intervention, according to Irina Savishvili, a party member. [passage omitted]

Kravtsov on Political Prisoners, Emigres
LD3110164488 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—"A reform of law aimed at the further humanisation of the USSR's legislation is part of the shaping of socialist law-governing state in the USSR", Boris Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice, told a TASS correspondent. "Specifically, the area of the application of punishments connected with the isolation from society, is to be considerably narrowed. Punishment of minors will be mitigated, and there will be a considerable restriction on the use of capital punishment".

"There is talk in the West even now about political prisoners in the USSR and their number is given at several hundred. I would like to note that only persons who committed criminal offences are kept in places of detention in the USSR", the minister went on. "Two persons convicted under Article 70 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda) are kept in places of detention now, and five persons are in exile. One person convicted under Article 190 (circulation of patently false allegations denigrating the Soviet state and social system) is kept in places of detention".

Boris Kravtsov said that in his television appearance yesterday he had given a different figure—two persons. "But I was told today that one of these two convicts has already been released", he said. Not a single person was convicted under the afore-mentioned articles this year, he said. Two persons convicted under Article 227 which envisages punishment for trespass against the person and offences against rights of citizens under the pretext of performing religious rites are kept in places of detention. But for some reason they are spoken in the West as of "prisoners of conscience", the minister said.

"The humanisation of legislation should apply to these articles", the minister said. "In general opinion of scientists and specialists Article 190 should be dropped altogether. It will apparently be so. As regards Article 70 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, I think they will undergo substantial alterations. Nobody is tried for dissent in our country, but only for concrete actions that would be manifested, say, in calls for the overthrow of power, of government. This is apparently how this article will be formulated in the new edition. So far these are just proposals, as the new law has not yet been adopted".

"Or take a different problem. The existing legislation of the USSR permits the exit of Soviet citizens from the USSR only for family reunions. A new normative act is being worked out now to regulate questions of exit from the USSR or entry into the USSR. I would like to emphasise that this document will be fully in keeping with Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Boris Kravtsov said. "But even the procedure existing now facilitated considerably the exit from the Soviet Union or entry to the USSR for Soviet citizens. The number of people given permission to leave the country increased considerably of late. As many as 65,764 persons left the USSR over nine months of the current year, 11,532 persons out of that number for Israel, an increase of 13.4 times on the same period of 1986. Out of the number of applications for exit only 1.5 per cent of the total number of applications considered were refused. The refusals are made for reasons of protecting state secrets. But there are cases when persons given the permission for exit change their mind".

Conditions Eased for Detained Suspects
PM3110102588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with V. Ogorodnikov, first deputy chief of the USSR MVD Maintenance of Public Order Main Administration, by F. Ivanov under the rubric "From Competent Sources": "Suspect Is Still Not a Criminal"—date, place of interview not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The USSR MVD has made a decision aimed at restoring justice in relation to persons in temporary detention centers. An IZVESTIYA correspondent talked with V. Ogorodnikov, deputy chief of the USSR MVD Maintenance of Public Order Main Administration, about this.

[Ivanov] Vyacheslav Vasilyevich, most of our readers have never had any direct contact with a temporary detention center, but many have a negative attitude to those who have ended up there: If someone has been detained, they argue, he must be a criminal, and there's no reason to be tolerant toward him....

[Ogorodnikov] Yes, this opinion does exist but it is fundmentally incorrect. Temporary detention centers are meant for people detained on suspicion of having committed a crime. Tens of thousands of people "go through" temporary detention centers each year, and 15-20 percent of them are subsequently found not guilty. This does not mean that militiamen "grab anyone they come across"—there are coincidences, and witnesses make mistakes. I must admit that instances of illegal detention have still not been eliminated.

But, unfortunately, the common view of the detainee as a criminal and contempt for him found expression in the fact that the "Statute on Procedure for Short-Term Detention of Persons Suspected of Committing a Crime" adopted in the seventies legitimized a harsh regime in temporary detention centers. In fact now detainees are kept in considerably worse conditions than persons arrested on a charge of committing a crime and even convicted criminals.

Thus, for example, detainees cannot use individual sleeping accommodation and bedlinen and sleep on bare, common "plank beds," do not enjoy the right to use money and receive parcels, and are deprived of the chance to exercise or to read newspapers and books. Their rights are infringed even as regards visits—these can last no more than 1 hour, while prisoners can meet their relatives for 2 hours.

Of course, this lack of rights had a strong effect on people at these crucial moments in their lives. To say nothing of people who ended up accidentally in temporary detention centers. Serious mental breakdowns even occurred. Some suspects confessed to crimes which they had not committed, and there were even suicides....

[Ivanov] How would you like to change the situation?

[Ogorodnikov] First, all detention centers housed in premises which are not adapted for the purpose must be closed. The rest must be rebuilt and must be equipped with exercise yards, and the necessary sanitary-hygenic conditions must be created.

Second, we believe it is important to eliminate prisoners' isolation from the outside world. It is proposed to equip the cells with radio outlets, to supply detainees with newspapers and journals, and to increase the length of visits.

And, finally, the notorious "plank beds" will be eliminated in all detention centers, and beds will replace them.

Naturally, all this will cost a great deal, but we think that nothing should be spared here. We are also relying on close assistance from local soviet organs, and means, materials, and construction workers to carry out this work will need to be found.

[Ivanov] The change in conditions for detainees is undoubtedly important. But probably it is also time to change the moral climate in the temporary detention centers.

[Ogorodnikov] Indeed, the violations of detainees' rights over many years have promped a biased attitude toward them on the part of some militia workers. Instances of rudeness, loutishness, and humiliation stemming from a lack of control are well known. Such workers, who have completely discredited themselves as servants of the law, should be decisively dismissed. Now we in the MVD have formulated a system of tests which will assist us in professionally selecting people for work in temporary detention centers.

Of course, it is not possible to solve all the problems immediately. But I think that in about 2 years the situation in the temporary detention centers will have improved significantly.

[The following paragraph is published in italics; attribution to Ogorodnikov or Ivanov is uncertain]

I would like to hope that a new "Statute on the Procedure for Short-Term Detention..." enshrining all these changes in legislative form will soon be prepared in collaboration with the USSR Prosecutor's Office and the USSR Ministry of Justice. All the same, it is still too early to say that this will put an end to the problems. It is time for the lawyers to think carefully about the legal status of persons kept in temporary detention centers. After all, it is a question of people who are suspects, whose guilt has still not been established, so it should be considered whether such a drastic limitation on their freedoms is lawful. It is also essential to resolve the question of the possibility of the defense lawyer's participation from the very moment of detention. In short, people should not be given the right, they should have it.

Estonian Dissident Released From Penal Camp

LD3110115288 Hamburg DPA in German 1139 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Frankfurt, (DPA)—The Estonian philologist and human rights campaigner, Enn Tarto, was prematurely released from political imprisonment a few days ago, according to the International Society for Human Rights (IGFM).

IGFM in Frankfurt announced on Monday, quoting its Moscow group, that Tarto has been allowed to leave a penal camp in the Perm area. He has returned home to the Estonian city of Tartu. According to IGFM, the

50-year old man was arrested in September 1983 and later sentenced to 15 years imprisonment for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

Lithuanians Honor 'Victims of Fascism'

LD3010215888 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 30 Oct 88

[Text] Vilnius October 30 TASS—The public of Kaunas, the second biggest city of Lithuania, a Soviet Baltic republic, today paid tribute to the memory of victims of fascism—the Jews who were shot on the territory of the old fortress, the 9th Fort, in the years of Hitlerite occupation.

A mourning meeting was held at the field where the Nazis started annihilating the Jewish population of Kaunas 47 years ago—on October 30, 1941. 12,000 people were shot that day alone.

In the year of Nazi occupation the fascists killed 700,000 people in Lithuania, which had then a population of three million. 80,000 civilians lost their lives on the territory of the 9th Fort alone. Among the victims there were also foreigners—citizens of France, Belgium, Czechoslovakia and other European countries.

A majestic monument was erected at the 9th Fort in 1984. An exposition building was built not far from fortress.

Speakers at the meeting expressed indignation at the fact that butchers from the 9th Fort, other death camps which were on Lithuania's territory, found their refuge abroad—in the United States, Canada, Britain and some other countries, and are now living there at ease.

Further on Latvian Popular Front Congress

PM2710150688 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 42, 16 Oct 88 p 13

[Leonid Miloslavskiy report: "The Constituent Congress of Latvia's Popular Front Held in Riga"]

[Text] Some 2,300 groups, uniting 115,000 Latvians, sent delegates to the 1st Congress of the Popular Front of Latvia (PFL), a sociopolitical organization set up "as the result of the people's patriotic activities." The Popular Front was given official status on October 8.

"We have attended the birth of a democratic movement," said Dianis Ivans, in closing the Congress. Ivans was elected PFL Board Chairman. "The birth was difficult. Many conflicting opinions were voiced, some overly emotional and not always understandable. But we all want good for our people."

Ivans was referring to some very pointed speeches on the national question. But the Congress showed once more that in Latvia, where the demographic situation is the most complex in the Baltic republics, and where the indigenous population has become a minority—most questions naturally acquire a national colour. The resolutions adopted by the Congress on destalinization, on the democratization of relations between the state and believers, as well as the idea of transferring the republic to complete cost accounting are connected with a desire for independence in solving such questions.

The simplest way—as it was so often in the past—would be to call these emotional outbursts nationalism, and thus to deny the constructive component in Latvia's efforts. But just as the results of the Congress demand analysis and explanation—especially among the Russian-language part of the population—the Popular Front needs understanding and support today. In this respect the positions of Congress guests—Latvian party and government officials, who were criticized more in two days than in all their working life—deserve respect.

"Compatriots! Let us congratulate ourselves on the setting up of Latvia's Popular Front...." said Janis Vagris, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia. Jointly we must do everything to justify the hopes of those who expect the congress to move our society along the road of democratization and renewal, and to demonstrate the growing political maturity of the people's movement.

"It would not be quite serious for me to speak today, four days after being elected to my post, about my own programme. But still I'd like to mention the main points.

"First, it is the priority of agriculture, the practical solution of Latvia's food problem. Second, it is the need for independence in the republic's economy and to work out the optimum model for it. Only that will enable us to put an end to departmental barbarity, to improve ecology and to stop migration. Third, Latvia must become a sovereign, law-governed state."

The PDL constituent congress approved the ten points of the programme which includes everything from public life—the democratization of the state and the economy—to ecology and human rights. The PFL Charter, outlining the Popular Front's structure and the status of its component parts, was approved. As distinct from the Estonian model of the PF—a people's movement without fixed membership or membership dues—every member of Latvia's Popular Front will pay between 20 kopeks and one rouble a month. A leading body of 100 people, elected by the congress, will guide PF activities. This was adopted by general voting, though not everyone thought this was democratic enough.

It was predicted that the PFL Board Chairman would be Janis Peters, a poet, the Board chairman of the Republican Writers Union. But after the first day of the congress, Peters refused the post and proposed instead Ivans, 33, a journalist. Ivans is known in Latvia as not only a man who constantly speaks from democratic

positions, but also as a good family man who has four children. When the programme was discussed, he proposed to include in it an article on the need for strengthening the family.

The congress—which was broadcast on Latvian TV and radio for two days till late at night—has finished its work. The delegates went home and so did the fans, who stood for two days in front of the house of political education, waving posters and red-white-red national flags. They are to confirm the words and the posters by practical deeds. At present Latvia's Popular Front is preparing to take part in the elections to the soviets.

Latvian Economist Views Models for Development

WA2510164888 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 21 Sep 88 p 2

[Interview with Edmunds Yanovich Sture, Latvian SSR economist, group leader, and director of the planning nii of the Latvian SSR Gosplan, by V. Dubrovskiy: "Behind the Lines of the Draft Concept of the Republic's Economic and Social Development: Toward Republic Cost Accounting"; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] The draft concept named as one of the ways of guaranteeing a high level of prosperity of the people the creation of a cost-accounting (khozraschetnyy) mechanism for the republic and its regions. In the regular meeting of that commission of the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers for operational affairs it was decided to form a working group to draft proposals for shaping a concept of the Latvian SSR's transition to the conditions of self-financing, to be followed by introduction of full cost accounting.

[Dubrovskiy] How is the work going to perform the task that was set? This was the first question in our interview with E.Ya. Sture, distinguished Latvian SSR economist, doctor of economic sciences, director of the planning nii of the republic's Gosplan, and leader of the working group.

[Sture] We should begin, I think, with the fact that an extensive program of measures to improve management in order to improve the effectiveness of development of the economy and the social sphere began to be carried out in the country following the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum. One of the fundamental measures in this area is the conversion of enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and scientific and other organizations to full cost accounting. The 19th all-union party conference noted the need to expand the sphere of cost accounting, that is, to extend it to the activity of the administrative division, or in other words, the introduction of regional and republic cost accounting. The principles of management on that basis are already being worked out in a number of republics and oblasts, including the Latvian SSR. Specifically, our republic's Council of Ministers has advertised a competition among scientists to draft proposals on the problems of converting the republic to cost accounting. Scientists of the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Economics, the Latvian State University imeni P. Stuchka, and the planning nii of Gosplan have responded. An initiating group has also been organized under the Latvian SSR Komsomol Central Committee.

[Dubrovskiy] Which means that each group has proposed its own model, its own version?

[Sture] Quite right. And it should be noted that they have done this in a rather short period of time. By 1 september in fact, which was the date fixed for them to submit their proposals to us. These four groups submitted their models. Scientists of the Riga Polytechnical Institute joined them later with their own proposals.

[Dubrovskiy] Not so long ago the republic's youth newspapers published an article entitled "General Model for Restructuring the Economic Management of the Latvian SSR (Cost Accounting of the Republic)."

[Sture] That was one of the models. It was developed by the initiating group itself that had been created under the republic's Komsomol Central Committee. Of course, the optimum possibility would be to submit the other versions to the general public, but there did not seem to be enough time. But I want to emphasize that all of these models are being examined by our working group on an equal footing.

[Dubrovskiy] Which brings us to your activity at this moment. What have you learned from your first examination of the models submitted?

[Sture] It must be said that the scientists' proposals have proved to be rather interesting. I am also glad that we now have several models, since some questions are dealt with better in some of them, and other questions in other models. But on the whole, if we put all the proposals together, which our group is now doing, they can serve as the basis for working out a single conception of the economic mechanism of a union republic like ours.

It has to be noted that all the models are some 60-70 percent identical in their approach. This is quite natural, since, as emphasized in the concept for development of the Latvian SSR, "the initial elements of the general model must be as follows: strengthening the republic's independence in deciding economic and social issues, major reform of planning, pricing, and the finance and credit mechanism, transition to wholesale trade in the means of production, creation of new management structures, use of progressive forms of the organization of work, development of cooperation, and improvement of external relations." So the tasks are the same. But the approach to performing them varies somewhat. There is a difference in the treatments of the different questions.

[Dubrovskiy] Edmunds Yanovich, could you give some specific examples?

[Sture] In the first meeting of our working group and of representatives of all the initiating groups, which was held on 8 September, there were certain differences on what I regard as a rather fundamental question of the relation to enterprises under union jurisdiction located within the republic. One version would be to transfer them to republic jurisdiction with all the changes that would require. The second version would be for those enterprises to operate under the conditions of cost accounting, leaving them in their present position, but they would pay a certain share of their profit into the republic budget. Incidentally, if we look at the experience of the capitalist countries, the firms there, though they belong to private capital, still make appropriate payments to the budget of the state or the country. So that this is a question we still have to work out.

The provision for creating a free economic zone within the republic is also rather debatable. There is not unanimity either on such an aspect as regulating the republic's development solely with economic levers. World experience shows that even though they have a very, very large weight, everything is still not done exclusively with them.

[Dubrovskiy] Now that we have touched on world experience, it is interesting to mention this nuance. The group of scientists from the Latvian State university was headed by docent S. Dimans. I know that he has had some experience in these matters, since he went through advanced training in the Hungarian People's Republic and in Poland. Presumably, the model from that group has in one way or another included certain elements taken from the practice of those countries?

[Sture] Of course. But these elements are also present in the scheme for the radical economic reform which is being carried out in our country. These are above all expanded independence, a greater role for the market, market relations, and so on. But of course, the experience of the socialist countries should be given the most careful attention, while our own peculiarities should be borne in mind.

[Dubrovskiy] Quite often one hears the quite widespread opinion that in making the transition to full cost accounting the republic will supposedly be able to fully supply itself with food and industrial goods by producing them itself.

[Sture] I think that in speaking about that the following emphasis should be used. The main thing here is to use most advantageously the market relationship, to produce those quality products which are the most profitable, to sell profitably, and to buy what the republic needs. I emphasize once again that this is a process taking place throughout the world. It can also be traced in the integration of the European countries in the "Common Market." Indeed even the CEMA countries are using the principle of division of labor. So it can hardly be said that a republic able to make the transition to 100-percent self-sufficiency will be better off. What is more, the assortment of goods is so broad that it is simply impossible for the republic to make everything efficiently.

[Dubrovskiy] The next question is directly related to this one. The press has recently carried quite a few articles on republic cost accounting. But in many of them the main emphasis is put on the possibilities for distribution (the republic's budget, and so on).

[Sture] That is, of course, absolutely indispensable. But there is a rather rigid rule that operates in economics—you can distribute only what has been produced. I would like to emphasize once again, then, that in the present stage we must stress the efficiency of our production. Take the japanese firms as an example. After all, they are fighting first and foremost to improve product quality. If the quality is there, then there will be a market and there will be profit. So productivity and quality are on the agenda as they have been in the past.

[Dubrovskiy] Our neighbors in Lithuania are taking that point of view. In an interview published recently in NEDELYA, Yu. Sheris, deputy chairman of the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers, confirmed this. But in that case the following problem arises: Can a republic taken separately make a complete transition to cost accounting? Will that be successful?

[Sture] I think that this can hardly be practical. After all, every republic is a segment of the country's unified national economic complex. And interrepublic relations have such great importance that no republic can fail to take them into account. The way out, in my view, is for republic cost accounting to be introduced, if not in all the republics at once, which is at present unrealistic, then at least in our neighboring republics, say, in our Baltic region, in Belorussia.

[Dubrovskiy] But, as is well known, the recent plenum of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee fixed dates for conversion to republic cost accounting. Does this not contradict the viewpoint you have expressed?

[Sture] I do not think so, because we have been working on our conception in close contact with specialists of those republics. We are going in the same direction. And the meeting of scientists and specialists of the republics of the Soviet Baltic region and Belorussia, which is opening today in Riga to discuss the problems of regional cost accounting, is the best confirmation of that.

[Dubrovskiy] Does this mean that one can express the hope that practical steps are not very far away?

[Sture] For all the urgency of the problem, haste could be a hindrance here. After all, what has been happening when enterprises make the transition to self-financing and cost accounting? Even very robust enterprises, which theoretically ought to be able to make a painless transition to this form of economic activity, have at

some points begun to "slip." That is, certain unforeseen difficulties and reefs of various kinds have cropped up in practice. It has become clear that all of this needs additional work. After all, when applied to the republic, these problems are compounded, and that quite significantly. So we still have to weigh everything that is "for" and "against" in many directions.

[Dubrovskiy] Aside from what we have mentioned, surely there are other points of the first importance which the members of your working group are now working on.

[Sture] Of course. I would include among them the goals of republic cost accounting, the economic and social results which it is supposed to bring about, the relations with union-level organizations in the fields of production planning, the financing and distribution of the budget, how to achieve cost accounting most fully within the republic, the relations of enterprises and organizations with local soviets of people's deputies, and so on. As noted in the concept of the republic's development, even during this 5-year plan we must work out the entire mechanism for the conduct of economic activity, so that we begin the 13th 5-Year Plan with the new cost-accounting mechanism.

[Dubrovskiy] Social and economic issues are most intimately bound together. One can fully understand, then, the interest which people in our republic have shown in the concept for development of the Latvian SSR, including cost accounting. I have even had occasion to hear the opinion expressed that the model published by the initiating group of the Latvian Komsomol Central Committee was quite radical, but hardly realistic under the given conditions. But this, it has turned out, is only one of five points of view. When can we expect the general model of republic cost accounting, when it has all been brought together, to appear in the press?

[Sture] Vladimir Ilich Lenin wrote in his time that he did not know of anything that was more social than the economy. Discussion of the draft conception confirms it. As for the model of the initiating group you mentioned, in my view some of its provisions can serve as end points of the development of cost accounting in the republic. And at present we are thinking of submitting the general model of the transition of the Latvian SSR to cost accounting at the end of September or the beginning of October. I want to emphasize once again that to a certain degree it might be corrected by the meeting of scientists, which will last 3 days.

[Dubrovskiy] Thank you for the interview.

Arutyunyan Relates NKAO Concerns After Visit

NC2510143988 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 18 Oct 88

[Text] Yerevan, 18 October, ARMENPRES—As has already been reported, a meeting was held on October 11 in Stepanakert between Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee; Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party; and A. Volskiy, representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The meeting was also attended by G. Pogosyan, first secretary of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] party obkom.

After returning from Stepanakert, Suren Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, attended an interview during which an ARMENPRES correspondent asked him a number of questions.

[Correspondent] Comrade Arutyunyan, this is your second visit to the NKAO. The objectives of this visit have already been reported by TASS. What were your impressions of this visit?

[Arutyunyan] Regular meetings between the leaders of the republics are of particular importance when the situation in the region is so grave and tense, when alienation has unfortunately cast its shadow on relations between the two republics, and when problems arise almost every day. Such meetings have become a tradition. This was the third meeting with the first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and the second on Artsakh soil.

My impressions are many and I can talk about them at length. However, the word "impressions" may not describe in depth the deep feelings and emotion that I feel every time I set foot on that ancient land. For us, the Armenians, Nagorno-Karabakh—Artsakh—is not only of historic and geographic importance. For centuries a proud, skillful and hard-working people—our compatriots—have shed bitter sweat on this soil for their daily bread. But if we are to compare my recent visit with the visit in July to Stepanakert, the first thing noted was the people's smiling faces. These were the smiles of a proud people who were hiding their weariness and anxiety with the present conditions. But most important of all, the people seemed to be more confident and more optimistic, even though the Karabakhians have always had that special characteristic.

[Correspondent] The mass media reported that during the meeting special attention was paid to the study of ways to implement the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on the NKAO. Can we have more details about the implementation of that decision by the party and the government and about our republic's participation in it?

[Arutyunyan] Of course. I have already said, and I repeat, that all of us should pass from so-called platonic patriotism to practical patriotism and practical works. I am once again convinced that the need for our help is strongly felt in the NKAO.

The raising of the workers' living standards and the oblast's socio-economic and cultural development are not obstacles, but on the contrary good and genuine premises for the solution of all of the problems of the NKAO. While some extremely "hot-blooded" orators were showing impatience in their not very wise speeches and unwise acts at our Opera Square, and while they were trying to reap what they had not sown and to gather what they had not harvested, initiatives were being taken in many of the republic's collectives and other institutions, ideas were maturing, and work was being carried out daily in order to display genuine—I repeat genuine—assistance to our compatriots, the people of Artsakh. True patriotism does not see any need for superfluous and bombastic words and slogans.

The decision by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on "steps toward the acceleration of the social-economic development in the NKAO of Azerbaijan SSR during 1988-1995," and the concrete measures foreseen in this decision to be undertaken by the Armenian SSR ministries and committees, have been extensively pointed out in the special decision adopted by the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers. Today we can say that the steps pertaining to this decision have been taken.

As is known, on May 1, 1988, a 100-(?kv) television transmitter was completed and now the residents in Stepanakert, in Shushi, and in some villages in Askerani can view the first program of Armenian television. In addition, in Martuni near (Chartar) village, boosters have been set up which will allow the people in that region's 35 villages to receive our television's first programs.

The Armenian radio programs have been linked with the Stepanakert radio network. A new postal route has been set up for Yerevan-Goris-Stepanakert which allows the exchange of letters and parcels. The number of inter-city telephone numbers between Yerevan and Stepanakert, as well as Martakert-Hadrut-Askerani, has been increased.

The Armenian SSR Ministry of Telecommunications is cooperating with the USSR Ministry of Telecommunications and with state institutes to design a radio relay link between Shushi-Martuni-Hadrut and Shushi-(Barda-Melshen-Haterk), which is expected to be completed by the end of the current year. Also, construction of assembly [word indistinct] will be completed in 1989.

[Correspondent] In view of this, not only moral ties are being strengthened....

[Arutyunyan] Moral ties between the NKAO and the Armenian SSR were never severed under any circumstances....

[Correspondent] However, such obstacles existed during both the era of the personality cult and during the years of stagnation....

[Arutyunyan] Yes. Now the Armenian SSR can directly participate in the consolidation of the NKAO's cultural, educational, and scientific bases.

For example, in March 1988 the Armenian SSR's State Publications Committee sent to NKAO almost 40,000 publications on fine arts, popular-political topics, educational methods, encyclopedias, and of course children's books. In August of this year all the 56 textbooks were sent to the NKAO schools. Attention was also paid to the libraries. In the first 6 months of 1988, the "Haygirk" Library publications executed an order from NKAO amounting to R50,000. This is only one example of the cultural-moral ties. These ties can now be further consolidated. It depends on many things, including us.

[Correspondent] Recently a large number of the people in the republic have been studying, with interest, the difficulties that have come up in the reconstruction and renovation of cultural and historic monuments in the Azerbaijan SSR by Armenian experts and skilled workers....

[Arutyunyan] Such difficulties are removed immediately after they arise. I am more than confident in this, and the republic's leadership does not take its eyes off such problems.

[Correspondent] It is a known fact that the most difficult of problems faced by the NKAO is that of housing and the construction of social-cultural buildings. There are also many unsolved problems in the field of road construction. What are we doing in this regard?

[Arutyunyan] On August 25, 1988, a meeting devoted to construction problems in the NKAO was held in Stepanakert, with the participation of A.I. Volskiy, representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; Yu. L. Nazarov, deputy chief of the USSR State Construction Committee; and the deputy chairmen of the Armenian and the Azerbaijan SSR's.

According to the decision adopted, which was also approved by the USSR Council of Ministers, the Armenian SSR's Transportation Construction Planning Institute started a study of a road linking Lachin to Stepanakert and Goris. Construction of this road has been given to the Armenian Transportation Construction Institute. Studies have been carried out on the construction of a 25-30 km highway (?from the) Azerbaijan SSR border to (Oktyabrkend-Kelbadzhar)-Martakert.

As you have correctly observed, the housing issue is extremely critical in the NKAO. This issue was further exacerbated after the incidents in Sumgait, and also because of the housing of refugees from the various cities

of Azerbaijan SSR. Even though construction is currently a priority matter for our republic too, we nevertheless do not have the ethical right to remain indifferent toward the problems of our brothers in the NKAO. For this reason, the Armenian SSR State Construction Institute has undertaken the contractual construction of two 9-story housing units in Stepanakert.

In the 1989 projects, the construction of two more 9-story housing units have been foreseen. The designing of these units is being carried out, and the construction of the wooden frames for three individual houses have already been started (?by the) Armenian Construction and Industrial Research Institute.

Feasibility studies for a cultural palace, a pioneers' house, and a city library in Stepanakert are also being done.

The Armenian SSR Automobile Transport Ministry has undertaken road construction amounting to R2 million. Assistance is being extended in the construction of railway bridges too.

The Armenian State Construction Institute has set up [word indistinct] (Ararat) construction, an office in NKAO for construction-assembly activities in the NKAO, and up to 10,000 square meters of housing units, 1,000-seat schools, and 300-seat kindergartens will be constructed annually. In 1989 a physical education center will also be completed.

[Correspondent] Certainly the republic's other ministries and industrial establishments are also participating in this patriotic movement.

[Arutyunyan] Of course. The Armenian SSR's Light Industries Ministry is extending active and regular technical assistance to establishments in the NKAO, and fundamental technical and technological assistance is being extended for industrial development there. The republic's Local Industries Ministry has prepared the plans for the construction in Hadrut of a local pottery and ceramic plant. A local handicrafts organization is being set up. The Armenian SSR's Food Industry Ministry has set up a traditional bakery with a daily capacity of 10 tonnes in Martakert, and in the near future two other bakeries are also to be set up. The Armenian SSR's ministries, establishments, and institutes are extending practical assistance to the oblispolkom and to the cooperatives for the distribution of staple goods.

The republic's agro-industrial establishments are studying and solving problems pertaining to technological development in meat and dairy units.

The collectives in Yerevan's chemical, (?timber), and electro-technical industries have expressed their readiness to extend active assistance to the industries in the NKAO and to help them develop new industries for assembly of buildings, for the construction of technical and not [word indistinct] (?installations), and for renovations and repairs.

As you can see, much has been done, and listing everything here is impossible. However, what I have listed is a good example of what has been achieved.

[Correspondent] In other words, did you discuss all these during the Stepanakert meeting?

[Arutyunyan] Not only that. What we are doing or what we intend to do in the NKAO cannot be viewed through the prism of the violent incidents that occurred between February and October, or from the standpoint of a 70-year-old situation or of the situation that has been created in the region. It is impossible to work toward a wise and mutually beneficial end or to limit ourselves to meetings only under such circumstances. Our peoples should live in harmony, not only because of their geographic situation. Alienation puts one in front of an intolerable, unending, and deserted path. We have to find the golden mean which will lead the two peoples—the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis—out of that deserted path and toward an oasis full of life, creativity, and reconstruction.

[Correspondent] What other meetings did you have on Artsakh soil?

[Arutyunyan] Immediately after the conclusion of the planned meeting, we went to the Stepanakert condensator plant with G. Pogosyan, first secretary of the NKAO party obkom, and R.Y. Agopyan, member of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau [word indistinct] and head of the Organizational-Party Administration.

After the idleness during the strikes, the industries have started to reoperate. People have returned to their work, realizing that the NKAO problem can be solved only under calm conditions and by working for the welfare of the homeland's people, both old and young. Also, I had an odd feeling. I felt as though I were in Armenia, as though I were looking at the same faces and into the same eyes and hearing the same questions.

The factory's workers and the residents of the newly built town spoke about their profound feelings after listening to your report on Armenian television. [sentence as received]

At the Stepanakert condensator plant, I met sensible people who were interested in the destiny of their land, in democratization, in reconstruction, and in friendship.

The meeting at the plant left a great impression on me.

We then went to the Askerani Rayon's newly built township. The road to the township passed through Khodzhayli village. Nothing there reminded one of the tragic incidents that occurred on September 18—only the name of the village.... At the township's "Haghtanak" Kolkhoz a meeting was held with the residents. Questions were asked once again. Some questions were doubtful, others (?controversial).

There also were questions with understood hidden meanings....

These were genuine Armenian farmers, a little romantic, but always wise.

[Correspondent] What are the issues that primarily concern the people of Artsakh?

[Arutyunyan] First and foremost, as I observed both at the condensator plant and at the "Haghtanak" Kolkhoz, as well as among the Armenians living in other areas, they are not concerned with individual issues but with the problem. Everything else is [word indistinct]. Various questions were asked. Why, for example, is the Sumgait trial being delayed? Why has the mass poisoning in the "Garun" sewing industry in Masis not been clarified? Why does the mass media report so superficially about the incidents in the NKAO?

Noteworthy proposals also were put forward, in my opinion. For example, Petrosyan, a worker at the condensator plant, proposed that a direct telecommunications link be established between Moscow-Stepanakert-Baku-Yerevan so that people may be informed in an objective manner.

It was proposed that a special branch of the Yerevan State University be set up in Stepanakert, and that a road linking Goris and Stepanakert through Lachin be constructed. I said that this problem is being solved.

Speaking about the economic successes achieved, the head of the "Haghtanak" Kolkhoz asked that assistance be extended in the construction of a cultural house. I cannot forget the moving remarks by worker Mkrtchyan, who asked that the compatriots in Armenia be told that the NKAO problem cannot be solved through hunger strikes and (?sinister) means. People's lives depend on resolution and perseverence and should not be clouded by tragedies, but lit up with the laughter of children. I cannot forget the profound words by a dairy maid and mother of seven, one of whom served in Afghanistan.

In short, the 1-day trip to NKAO was very useful.

During the meeting with Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, which was attended by A.I. Volskiy, representative of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and by G. Pogosyan, first secretary of the NKAO party obkom, problems of concern both to the Armenians and to the Azerbaijanis were discussed. And I feel that we have taken yet another step in the right direction.

Armenian Leader Discusses Nagorno-Karabakh Aid
LD2610210788 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 26 Oct 88

["Head of Armenia's Government—Interview"—TASS headline]

[Text] Yerevan October 26 TASS—"The problem of Nagorno-Karabakh is one of those complex phenomena in the sphere of inter-ethnic relations, which existed earlier as well but about which silence was maintained," Fadey Sarkisyan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, told TASS.

He said that the key to tackling this problem was found, however. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR on Nagorno- Karabakh, which is pervaded with care about the restoration of stability in the region, is being implemented now. The special commission of the Soviet (council) of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR also works on the problems piled up and, following their thorough analysis, will submit its proposals to the Soviet parliament's Presidium. Several union bodies are also engaged in dealing with the problem.

Sarkisyan noted that Armenia gives all-round assistance to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in the socio-economic, scientific-technical and cultural spheres. For instance, the majority of the region population already receive the Armenian television programme. The new Yerevan-Goris-Stepanakert post road was organised promptly to deliver mail and printed editions, the number of direct telephone channels between Yerevan and Stepanakert, and other cities of the region increased more than three-fold.

Upwards of 270 graduates from Nagorno-Karabakh were enrolled in the republic's higher schools this year, and new motor roads will go under way in the autonomous region.

Armenia sends four sets of nine-storey large-panel apartment houses, which will be assembled by Armenian builders, to Nagorno-Karabakh as part of the efforts to deal with the housing problem, Sarkisyan said. The production of bridge ferroconcrete structures is being set up. A physical culture and health-building complex will be erected in Stepanakert. Specialists from the republic will also take part in restoring and retooling monuments of Armenian architecture. Assistance is given to the Nagorno-Karabakh region also in advancing industrial and agricultural production, supplying the population with consumer goods, extending the consumer service and commerce sphere, developing the health care system and scientific research.

Sarkisyan applauded the initiative of the collectives of many enterprises and research institutions of the republic to launch vigorous cooperation with enterprises and organisations of Nagorno-Karabakh, forward to them development studies in advanced technology and equipment, help in setting up cooperatives in diverse areas of production.

The republican center for aesthetic education forms a similar center and a children's creativity museum in Stepanakert. Practical and methodical aid is provided to medical establishments, Armenian language teachers in the region, and children's pre-school establishments.

Further Armenian Criticism of Weekly's Coverage
NC2910105888 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 24 Oct 88

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Oct, (ARMENPRES)—Can the Artsakh-Karabakhian incident be regarded as a misfortune for the Armenian people, as some journalists and press organs regard it? Our people believe the contrary. A just struggle can never be regarded as a misfortune, especially when it is a struggle for the sake of ethnic honor and for the free self-determination of our Armenian brothers in Artsakh. Can this be condemned in any way? We believe that no noble human being, whatever his nationality, can regard such a demand as immoral. The Armenian peoples' misfortune is that only a very few can understand the profound psychology of this struggle. But there are slanderers, and one of them is (S. Osyenho), a correspondent of the VETERAN weekly. This meticulous author decided to put forth his own fictious version of the Karabakh incidents by resorting to an unsuccessful journalistic polyphony. He was so zealous in his effort that one can daresay that he surpassed all his predecessors. At this point it is meaningless to discuss the "acts" by his predecessors. Suffice it to say that, when a number of representatives of press organs came to Yerevan, they promised in their remarks and during their meetings to support the objective of the legal efforts. However, they subsequently displayed the exact opposite feelings in their reports. What is surprising is that as freely and as impudently as they condemned our people's peaceful demonstrations, they were restrained—or better said, silent—to the same extent with regard to the Sumgait incidents and to the crimes perpetrated in (Bazakh) and Khodzhaly. Why? The answer is clear. Journalists, who more than anyone else should display truthfulness, did not heed their voice of conscience in the very obvious absence of condemnation in their efforts to portray the Armenians' demands as immoral. This was the origin of the attack, so to speak.

But, there was slander. The VETERAN article entitled "Special Status," which was published in the magazine's issue No 41, slandered us. A considerable amount of service also was rendered by Lieutenant-Colonel (V. Ratikin), who was in Yerevan for 2 months as a member of the contingent of limited internal forces. During an interview in Moscow, the correspondent asked the officer: What surprised you most when you went to Yerevan? The big-eared lieutenant-colonel responded by repeating gossip. Since this gossip concerned the soldiers, the correspondent and the lieutenant-colonel felt compelled to join forces and create and disseminate more gossip concerning the Armenian people. By gossiping about all sides, the correspondent and the lieutenant-colonel felt they would not owe an explanation to anyone. However, this time the gossip is not confined to whispering in the ear—as happened in Yerevan—but published in the press. The correspondent then asked: Were the soldiers present at the disorders?

"Yes, frequently," the lieutenant-colonel answered happily. "But I would like to say that none of our soldiers neglected their voice of conscience. They remained faithful to their oath and duty. Large sums in bribes, alcoholic drinks, drugs, and women were offered in a bid to weaken their morale, but no one, I repeat, no one, gave in to the provocations."

Yes, things such as this. And then they say that soldiers are not good at inventing things. Can there be a better invention than this? It was as though a Western film on sex or violence or an Italian [word indistinct] was being (?replayed, but) in Armenia.

Our press does not use such a tone even when describing the mafia, the Afghan dushmans, or South African atrocities. But the VETERAN used this tone when writing about Armenia and the Armenians, about a Soviet republic, using a journalist and a lieutenant-colonel as authors. What would have come after the Armenians' so-called effort to weaken morale? The moving of borders? The subjugating of other nations?...

I met with Gusik Arutyunyan of the Armenian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. He, too, had read the article and was disturbed.

"It is a fabrication," he said. "There have been no such things in the republic. Soviet hospitality and our peoples' warm feelings toward guests and especially toward Russian soldiers—who always have been regarded with affection—have been distorted. I gave the same answer to the central television's [word indsitinct] (?publication).

None of these thigns have happened. They are lies. But, let us assume that one of the dregs of society did resort to such an act. Is not the author aware that certain things should not be printed in the press? He knows very well, which explains why he fabricated this forgery. This is obvious. It is not necessary to be very intelligent to understand that dark forces worked together and formed strong ties. Let us not ask who these forces are. A journalist, a man of the pen, does not have the right to sell his soul to the devil, especially when this affects the Armenian peoples' honor.

In conclusion, we would like to ask TRUD, of which VETERAN is a supplement: What was the objective behind this filthy and deceitful fabrication? Was it possibly to agitate the people once again?

[Signed] Shakaryan, head of the SOVETAKAN AYSTAN letters' section. SOVETAKAN AYASTAN newspaper. [Dated] 20 October.

Armenian Culture Fund Elects New President

LD2710140588 Yerevan International Service in Armenian 2130 GMT 26 Oct 88

[Text] The administration of the Armenian Fund for Culture [mshakouyti haykakan fond] has held a plenum. The administration met the request of [name indistinct] Arevshatyan to be relieved of the duties of president of the Armenian Fund for Culture. The Administration passed a vote of thanks for the work he had done. Author Vartkes Petrosyan [former chairman of the Soviet Armenian Writer's Union] was elected president of the administration of the fund.

Vezirov Interviewed on Azerbaijani Social Ills

PM2610152388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with A.-R. Kh. Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, by own special correspondent B. Reznik in Baku: "Confident of Support"—date of interview not given]

[Text] [Reznik] Abdul-Rakhman Khalilovich, you became head of the republic party organization in May this year. A difficult time. In Azerbaijan, as in a number of other regions of the country, quite a few serious problems, including social ones, have built up.

[Vezirov] Yes, that is true. The years of stagnation produced gross mistakes in the republic's economic developent and other spheres of life. The economy increasingly lost its social direction. The status of honest labor and professional skill was devalued and social parasitism became ingrained. In the last 15 years the gap between Azerbaijan and the average union indicators for living standards increased by 70 percent. The proportional distribution of national income per head of population deteriorated sharply: Billions of rubles less than the real economic potential actually allowed were directed toward the people's direct needs. The annual sum of utilized national income per head of population is roughly R700 below the figure for the USSR, that is to say, each family in the republic receives R3,000 less in consumer benefits. Thus, in terms of a number of key socioeconomic development indicators Azerbaijan figured among the country's laggards. An alarming state of affairs was revealed behind the hullabaloo of exultant reports, endless greetings messages, and shameless figure padding.

The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Plenum analyzed the state of affairs in the party organization and the republic as a whole in a trenchant and exacting manner and adopted a principled position in its examination. A program for immediate practical actions to implement the tasks of restructuring and carry out the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference was drawn up. We are right now, in the current 5-year plan, substantially stepping up our social priorities in investment policy.

[Reznik] Let us remind readers that the conversion of a number of administrative buildings and so-called guest houses into sociocultural establishments was one of your first actions on becoming leader. Having visited various regions of Azerbaijan, I would say that this measure is approved by people as a restoration of social justice. The only thing I failed to grasp on reading the report headlined "Gift to the People of Baku" was why it was a gift.

[Vezirov] The headline was unfortunate; I would put it this way: The residences have been restored to their owners. They were, after all, built with the people's money....

It is distressing to have to say that the republic is short of more than 22,000 hospital beds, that there is a maternity home in only one in five rural rayons, and that one in three of them has no children's hospital.... While at the same time people have seen prestigious administrative buildings and villas going up. Many of them will now be used to improve people's health.

The comprehensive "Health" Program, which we are are preparing and will be submitting for discussion by all the people, is also in keeping with the aim of social justice. Environmental problems occupy a special place in it.

Look at what is being done in Baku, which is one of the most "ecologically stricken" cities in the country. The public is concerned over the fate of the Caspian, where sustained economic pressure has exerted a pernicious impact for many years now. The unique environment of Apsheron...was under threat.

[Reznik] I have been told that speedy measures are being carried out to save it. For the first in years a number of harmful production units have been closed down in Baku and Sumgait.

[Vezirov] Yes, we have no time to hang around. We must tackle these sore issues with energy and resolve, as in the case of the Apsheron Peninsula. The point is that as a result of an incorrect decision taken many years ago to stop the allocation of dacha plots in Baku's greenbelt, thousands of hectares of fertile land along the picturesque shore of the Caspian were virtually unused and were filled up with garbage and industrial waste. And we are talking here about the famed golden sands of Apsheron, whose curative and climatic qualities are superior to many renowned spas! Unique fruit orchards perished

and thousands of dachas fell into neglect. In the bountiful south people were deprived of the opportunity to enjoy the the gifts of nature at their very doorstep.

The people of Baku have now been allocated around 20,000 dacha plots, and collective horticultural associations have been set up at many capital enterprises. It will be possible in the near future for around 7,000 city-dwellers to vacation on the Apsheron Peninsula.

Here I would like specially to say a general word about our plans for the more rational use of the republic's land and water resources. The space research science and production association has been instructed to plot the state of land use and reveal the real crop pattern. Work is also being carried out to normalize the use of chemical plant protection agents in agriculture and make more active use of biological methods.

[Reznik] People are pleased that land has not only begun to be allocated for dacha construction but for individual house construction. I was in mountainous Belokanskiy Rayon, where, for instance, people, having obtained plots and substantial loans, have begun building houses for more than 700 families. There will be no one needing housing in Belokany by the year's end.

[Vezirov] Indeed, the rate of construction of individual homes has tripled recently, and the volume will reach 1.7 million square meters this year. Industrial and rural enterprises using their own resources are actively engaged in housing construction. In short, we can see substantial progress being made wherever party and soviet organizations show commitment. For example, in Divichinskiy Rayon people have set about this with a will, in Dzhalilabad the council for the coordination of construction organizations is making good use of manpower and material resources, and in Lenkoran traditional local construction materials—pebbles, shells, and so forth —have begun to be used on a much larger scale. The housing construction rate is showing marked growth thanks to this.

But, unfortunately, we are still paying little attention to social construction in the countryside. The ratio of capital investment channeled toward these ends in the agro-industrial complex is 50 percent below the USSR average. But people have managed to utilize a mere 72 percent of these—let us be frank—modest appropriations in 2 years. It transpires that rural workers are quite often diverted for outside projects. They build, for example, party raykom and rayispolkom buildings and other administrative buildings and build quite a bit even in the center of Baku. It has been resolved that all such projects be excluded from the "Agropromstroy's" plans.

Cities are also in a fix. In the republic's capital there are 68,000 families on the apartment waiting list. Around 200,000 people live in improvised shacks they have built themselves and hosts of people live in communal apartments! We commission, however, and it is shameful to say it, a mere 10,500 apartments a year.

A comprehensive "Housing" program has now been drawn up and is being discussed in labor collectives and in the press. We are not talking just in terms of square meters but about apartments with telephone, drinking water, gas, heating, and other conveniences. All these questions are being submitted for scrutiny at the republic communist party central committee's upcoming plenum.

[Reznik] Let us now switch the conversation, Adul-Rakhman Khalilovich, to a somewhat different area, although this also concerns people's social well-being. Probably everyone who comes to Azerbaijan notices that the republic is spared drunkenness and all that is associated with this misfortune, which is such a sore problem for other regions. But extortion, speculation, and other signs of the shady economy about which the 19th all-union party conference spoke are striking.

[Vezirov] The cancer of the shady economy—calculating selfishness, meek subservience, and indifference —has become widespread in Azerbaijan, as in certain other republics. Honest people, for whom the mentality of "if you want to live well, learn to maneuver" is loathsome, are the ones who suffer most from this. We realize that the opponents of restructuring here are powerful and treacherous. It is they who spread all the different rumors and fabrications which distract people from the process of renewal.

In directing our efforts toward ending corruption we are concerned with enhancing people's legal protection and reviving their confidence in justice. This is not an easy process and raises many questions. How do you make everyone an active, energetic participant in restructuring? Under conditions of democracy and glasnost, alongside a considerable number of intelligent, constructive proposals, we also see a desire to merely make suggestions and criticize shortcomings. But these people have not yet gotten themselves involved in solving these urgent issues, have not yet roused themselves from their social lethargy. Hence our task is to seek to ensure that people work in a conscious way, with a degree of competitiveness, aware that it is their society and that they are accountable to it.

[Reznik] Policy is being carried out via the people. But if the corrupt circles, which have set down roots even among among workers in the party, soviet, and state apparatus, are alive and flourishing, who is to be the channel through which the policy of renewal is to be conducted?

[Vezirov] There are two aspects to that question. The louder the struggle against string-pulling, nepotism, and local favoritism was proclaimed, the more people operating on these very principles insinuated themselves into leadership work. Quite often people whom the party

organization and public of the republic did not know, and who had no experience of work with the masses, became party and Soviet workers, even at the top level. The principle of collective leadership was eroded and total free license set in.

At the same time everything was done to create the appearance that cadres were being energetically renewed. In fact, however, disgraced leaders were shielded, while principled, honest people were alienated from active sociopolitical life. IZVESTIYA recently published an interesting article about how a party investigation turned into an inquisition. How many such cases we have had!

Another aspect of the problem: Throughout these years, despite the intolerable conditions and even persecution, thousands of Communists devoted to the cause of the party and the people held on and worked honestly here. Many of them, previously excluded for their sense of principle and refusal to accept the prevailing mores, are returning to key posts. Muslim Mamedov, a head of department and previously first secretary of a Baku party raykom, has become minister of public education. Vagif Guseynov, who headed the Central Committee Organizational Party Work Department and who once "displeased" the leadership, has returned to the republic. Suleyman Mamedov, a capable and authoritative organizer who was for many years denied the opportunity to display his potential, has become chairman of the Kirovobad Gorispolkom.

Unfortunately, there still remain quite a few shortcomings in work with cadres and in their placement and training. The barrier of outmoded dogmas has also to be surmounted here, and new thinking and nonstandard approaches are both essential. The main thing, I think, is to see a person rather than an application form, to study in depth the character and competence of the future leader, and choose a job that matches his ability rather than delving into an account of distant family relationships, which is degrading for him. And people's opinion of him must, of course, be taken into account. That is where solid work still has to be done to create an effective system for the selction of cadres at all grades and levels.

[Reznik] Cadres' responsibility is growing in leaps and boounds at the present stage of restructuring, in connection with the political reform of our society and the improvement of the party apparatus in line with the guidelines of the 19th all-union party conference.

[Vezirov] The idea of restructuring was put forward by our party. And it is profoundly logical that the party should be one of the first to restructure itself. The reorganization of the structure of party committees is being carried out, as M.S. Gorbachev stressed at the CPSU Central Committee September (1988) Plenum, in the light of the change in the party's functions and the enhancement of its role as society's political vanguard. Life itself demanded these changes.

The question of who has the moral right to be a party member and party leader is a very important one. Whereas previously the person who was good at drawing up a report or preparing a draft resolution was considered best, now, when we are seeking to make our activity different in character, the ability to conduct political work among the masses acquires special significance.

We saw that for ourselves during that tough time for our republic. The political information days, which are an active part of the practice of mass political work, showed up the inability of our cadres to conduct discussion and answer pointed questions. But on the whole the regular meetings held in collectives are becoming a good training school for both the leaders themselves and for working people. Questions that worry people are being promptly solved there. After all, many of them are merely the result of indifference, a disdainful attitude toward observance of the principles of social justice, and flagrant violations of those principles. Thus quite a few people, for example, who have worked for years at enterprises in Baku without a residence permit took part in rallies and processions. These included workers and students who live in hostels lacking basic amenities. We have taken up these problems and, it has to be said, passions have cooled appreciably.

Previously people were assembled and they heard only the leading comrade. While now people are eager to speak out and ask difficult questions. People increasingly believe what the party says. But from time to time the fear that statements made are mere words does afflict some people. People are urging that there be no deflection from the course adopted.

[Reznik] This presumably also applies to the problems of Nagornyy Karabakh? What measures is the Azerbaijan party organization taking to normalize the situation in that region?

[Vezirov] Our latest meeting with S.G. Artyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, was held a few days ago in Stepanakert. Together with A.I. Volskiy, representative of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, we thoroughly discussed questions regarding the coordination of the two republics' efforts to implement the well-known party and government resolutions on the Nagornyy Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO] and the progress of implementation. Work is off the ground but is not, unfortunately, progressing at the rate we would have liked. The process of normalization is being hampered by antirestructuring forces and criminal elements. Recently they again provoked an ethnic-based conflict and tried to unleash a new outburst of passions and emotions.

Dal has an interesting definition of the word "speculator" in his dictionary. There proves to be an old meaning, now forgotten: "a speculator is an executioner." In my view, this definition precisely reveals the

essence of the political speculation on national feelings being carried out by the corrupt forces who are now leaving the stage. They have essentially turned into the executioners of the national interests of their own people.

A group of workers from the USSR Prosecutor's Office is now investigating the mass disturbances in the NKAO of 18-21 September. A commission of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers concerned with the settlement of refugees from Nagornyy Karabakh is operating. Measures to restore damaged houses, to restore jobs to people unlawfully dismissed, and to ensure law and order and citizens' safety are being taken.

I recently visited a number of collectives in Baku and Kirovobad and rural rayons in the republic. The workers spoke frankly about pressing problems and about the obstacles to their working and living better, and asked questions of both a local and state nature. One can understand people's sincere impatience to be rid of the heavy burden of the past, if not right now then very soon. However, let's be realistic. The shortcomings, mistakes, and problems accumulated over years. And you are not, of course, going to be rid of them in a single day. You need to set your mind on serious, painstaking work—in the sphere of national relations as well, to which enormous damage has been done. But the main theme that runs through all these meetings is that restructuring enjoys the people's complete support. And that both encourages us and places us under an obligation.

Azerbaijan Politburo Discusses NKAO 13 Oct

LD2710145088 Baku KOMMUNIST in Azeri 14 Oct 88 p 1

[Text] At a meeting held on 13 October, the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Politburo discussed the results of the visit by A.Kh. Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, to the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast [NKAO]. At a meeting in Stepanakert on 11 October with S.G. Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, the leaders of the two republics exchanged information about the situation and the tasks being carried out by party organizations and the working people of Azerbaijan and Armenia as part of the restructuring in overcoming stagnation phenomena in the economy and the social sphere and in improving the ideological and moral atmosphere for coordinating actions.

Special attention was paid to examining questions concerning the fulfillment of the decsiions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet on the NKAO. It was noted that despite the efforts of the union ministries and departments and of the party, soviet, and economic bodies of the Azerbaijan SSR, the tasks are being implemented unsatisfactorily because of strikes, absenteeism, and the resistance of some leaders of the oblast organizations and establishments. The importance of active organizational and party political work to ensure unconditional implementation of the program envisioned by the party and government was emphasized. It is extremely necessary to seek the optimal ways of solving the problems of the current situation and to take into account the interests of the working people of the autonomous oblast and the country in general.

During the meeting the need to enhance the militancy of both republics' party organizations in order to prevent attempts to arouse national hostility was demonstrated, as was the need to strengthen the task of not allowing any conflict in interethnic relations. The urgency and need to create the real assurance of safety for the population regardless of nationality, to eliminate the alienation between the two peoples, and to take measures for the immediate stabilization of the situation in the region was pointed out. It is possible to solve the problems of the NKAO only in a calm atmosphere, by showing a flexible and well-considered approach.

The Central Committee Politburo pointed out that completely baseless rumors and fabrications about the 18 July decision of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, spread among the population by representatives of groups involved in corruption and by criminal and nationalist elements, must be stopped, because this decision demonstrates the unacceptability of including the NKAO in the composition of the Armenian SSR and the impossibility of changing the borders of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR and the national and territorial division established on the basis of the Constitution.

The leaders of the two republics paid much attention to solving the problems of Azerbaijani and Armenian families forced to leave their homes.

During meeting with working people of the Shusha and Askaran Rayons, questions connected with the lagging behind of the social and cultural sphere in the villages were raised.

It was noted that the 4 October 1976 decision of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the AZSSR Council of Ministers on "Measures for Further Developing the Health Resort Complex of the Town of Shusha" is being implemented unsatisfactorily, and proposals were put forward on speeding up the social and economic development of the rayon. Much work must be done in the villages, such as the Khodzhaly village, of the Askaran Rayon (supplying drinking water, improving medical services, the construction of clubs, schools, and a hospital, and supplying them with gas).

Questions concerning restoring homes destroyed and burned down 18-20 September 1988 in Stepanakert and Shusha were discussed with leaders of the obkom and the oblispolkom. A number of people who had committed illegal actions at that time were arrested and officials of

the USSR Procuracy are carrying out an investigaton. Repair work on the houses has begun. The question of the return to work of those who were illegally dismissed from enterprises is being addressed.

Communist leaders of the AZSSR Council of Ministers, the Azerbaijan Trade Unions' Council, the republic's State Planning Committee, the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Consumer Services, the Ministry of Trade, the Ministry of Social Security, and Azerittifak were instructed to take comprehensive measures to solve the questions raised in the meeting between the first secretaries of the Azerbaijani and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees and also at the meeting with the working people of Shusha Rayon and Khodzhaly village of Askaran Rayon, to ensure the unconditional implementation of the 4 October 1976 decision of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers on the town of Shusha, and to offer proposals for speeding up social and economic development in village residential areas of the autonomous oblast.

In connection with the work of Azerbaijanis who have left Stepanakert, the Central Committee commission was instructed to solve without delay all questions related to their settlement.

Kh.N. Seidov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers, was instructed to go to the NKAO, to examine these questions and solve them, and to give a report on the results of this work.

The NKAO Obkom and the Executive Committee of the oblast soviet of people's deputies were instructed to carry out active work together with the republican ministries and departments to solve the questions raised at the meeting between the first secretaries of the Azerbaijani and Armenian Communist Party Central Committees and during the talks with the oblast activists and working people.

It was envisioned to implement measures for constantly informing the public on the sitation in the NKAO and the work of the republican organizations in the sphere of normalizing the situation in the oblast.

The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee Politburo separately discussed the question "On Articles of the Newspaper SOVETAKAN KARABAKH SOVETSKI KARABAKH and made it incumbent upon the obkom bureau to ensure strict control over the political direction of its press organ and to take effective measures to improve the situation at the newspaper's editorial board, returning it to the position of the party press. The obkom bureau was instructed to examine the personal responsibility of the Communist leaders of the newspaper, to provide a principled assessment of the publication of materials which arouse interethnic hostility, and to report the measures taken to the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

Report on Stepanakert Situation, Refugees

LD2710183288 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 27 Oct 88

[From the "Vremya:" newscast]

[Text] Our special correspondent's report from Stepanakert:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent V. Ryazanov] Today Stepanakert is a town of working factories and plants and building sites; the shops are open, schoolchildren are at their desks, municipal transport is operating and all is peaceful on the streets. The restoration of the communal housing fund is being completed; this will involve hundreds of apartments damaged during the September street disturbances which were provoked here by irresponsible elements.

Yet it is not only the police and military patrols and the limited curfew—incidentally, it has been reduced—which remind one that complete normalization has not yet been achieved.

Refugees have been deprived of their own homes and work, and many have been deprived of most of their own property. Their mood is as changeable as the autumn weather here. Wherever there are refugees, and whatever their nationality, there are acute problems: social tensions and irreconcilability between nationalities. [video shows houses being repaired; patrols on streets; families of refugees in groups, correspondent taking notes as he interviews them]

[Ryazanov, talking to man] In principle, in your opinion, how can the problem of the refugees be solved? This is an abnormal situation.

[V.G. Govorkyan, Stepanakert Ispolkom deputy chairman, identified by caption] The word "refugee" is now an unacceptable one, and this is how I understand the question. This question must be tackled in a fundamental way.

[Ryazanov, talking to a second man] In your view, how should the refugee problem be solved? What needs to be done?

[V.K. Abbasov, Susha Ispolkom deputy chairman, identified by caption] To solve the refugee problem, it seems to me the time is ripe for resolute measures against those who are agitating us, precisely those who do not want a normalization of the situation and who are creating enmity between the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples.

[Ryazanov] Unfortunately, a single compromise solution to the problem has still not been found. The authorities—at oblast and republican levels—are still not, unfortunately, at times satisfying the vital, urgent wishes of the people, especially in providing work, housing, and in rendering material assistance to those who have suffered. They are not creating the necessary conditions and guarantees for the refugees' return—on a voluntary basis of course—to their homes. Without this there cannot be a stabilization and a normalization of the situation in the region. [video shows interviews with these two officials] [end recording]

Economic Development in Nagorno-Karabakh Noted
LD2810141188 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 28 Oct 88

["News from Soviet Armenia"—TASS headline]

[Excerpts] Yerevan October 28 TASS—Follows news from Soviet Armenia. [passage omitted] Contacts with Nagorno-Karabakh [subhead]

High-ranking officials of Armenia's agro-industrial complex visited Nagorno-Karabakh to discuss the feasibility of launching food industry enterprises here. This area has scores of mineral water springs which are not so far used for medical purposes.

A mineral water distilling plant is planned for construction near the city of Stepanakert.

A cannery is under construction in the capital of this region to process wild fruit and berries. It will have branches in several villages. National Armenian confectionery industry is being set up as well.

A local brandy, Artsakh (the old name of Karabakh), will be distilled here.

All these measures are aimed at economic and social development in Nagorno-Karabakh stipulated in the resolutions of the Communist Party Central Committee and the Soviet Government. [passage omitted]

Antialcohol Campaign Resolution Published
PM2710152188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Oct 88 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee resolution on antidrink campaign: "At the CPSU Central Committee"—PRAVDA headline]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has adopted a resolution "On Progress in Fulfilling CPSU Central Committee Resolutions on Questions of Intensifying the Campaign Against Drunkenness and Alcoholism."

The resolution stresses that the work launched by party and soviet bodies and public organizations to implement the CPSU Central Committee 7 May 1985 resolution "On Measures To Eradicate Drunkenness and Alcoholism" and other decisions on these matters has contributed to the improvement of the moral atmosphere in society and to the strengthening of law and order. The establishment of a healthy way of life is an important ingredient of the restructuring policy.

The experience of a little over 3 years has shown that positive results are achieved in the campaign against drunkenness when the work is carried out in line with basic party principles—comprehensively, consistently, and purposefully, skillfully combining educational, economic, medical, and administrative-legal measures. The coordinated efforts of party, soviet, and law enforcement bodies and public organizations brought about a marked reduction in the number of cases of drunkenness at work and in public places. The family situation is improving and the accident level is falling. There has been a reduction in drink-related crime.

However, the resolution notes, radical changes have not yet been achieved. The extensive opportunities created for intensifying the campaign against drunkenness and alcoholism have not been properly exploited in many regions and they have not been backed up by painstaking, day-to-day work. Efforts to solve one of the most complex social problems have frequently been confined to administrative measures and brash, short-lived campaigns. Party bodies have failed to get the main force—the public, labor collectives, people at home—involved in the campaign against drunkenness and alcoholism.

A considerable proportion of party committees lacks the ability to correctly assess the situation, foresee the social and educational consequences of decisions that are made, and coordinate the practical actions of party, soviet, and public organizations and law enforcement and economic bodies in preventing law-breaking and eliminating its causes.

The campaign against drunkenness is suffering enormously because the main emphasis is on prohibitory, arbitrary methods, excesses, and forestalling events. The declaration of entire rayons and cities as "sober zones" without taking public opinion into account was not backed up by an intensification of educational work. Wine and liquor production was cut hastily, considerably in advance of set targets; there was an unwarranted reduction in the output of brandy, dry wine, sparkling wine, and beer, and the raw-material and production base for their manufacture was eliminated. There was an ill-considered approach to regulating the trade network and the liquor sales system.

These actions made liquor a sought-after commodity, created long lines, and led to a dramatic increase in home distilling, liquor speculation, substance abuse, and

drug addiction. Difficulties arose in the sugar and confectionery trade. There was no corresponding increase in the production and sale of requisite goods and services to match the reduction in marketable stocks of alcoholic drinks.

In this situation some workers in party, soviet, and public organizations have been very tardy in tackling the problems that have arisen. Some primary party organizations and party organs have displayed complacency and lack of principle over instances of drinking bouts at work.

In many places the campaign against drunkenness has slackened off of late, its effectiveness has diminished, and drunks are no longer encountering public opprobrium. The situation is particularly bad in railroad and motor transport. Crime on the street has increased. There has been an increase in the number of young offenders.

Internal affairs bodies have become less active in the campaign against drunkenness, home distilling, and speculation in sugar and other products. The CPSU Central Committee noted the poor work of the AUCCTU, Komsomol Central Committee, USSR Culture Ministry, USSR State Committee for Cinematography, USSR State Committee for Public Education, State Committee for Physical Culture and Sport, and creative unions' boards on implementing the course to establish a sober way of life. They have not adopted the requisite measures to step up the efforts of trade union, Komsomol, and creative organizations, and institutions of culture and sport to provide meaningful recreation for the population, particularly young people. The All-Union Voluntary Society to Campaign for Sobriety has not yet established itself as an authoritative, mass organization of active champions of a healthy way of life. Many of its organizations are in fact not functioning at all.

Progress is slow in the matter of strengthening the material base of drug addiction institutions and their work continues to have little effect.

The relaxation of efforts in the campaign against drunkenness and breaches of labor discipline and public order is damaging the cause of restructuring and is impeding the renewal of all spheres and aspects of our society's life.

The resolution points out that any deviation from the course of eradicating drunkenness and alcoholism is impermissible. The determined intensification of the campaign for sobriety has been and remains a matter of exceptional importance for all party, state, and public organizations, labor collectives, and law-enforcement bodies.

In this work it is necessary to abide by the provisions of the CPSU Central Committee 7 May 1985 resolution "On Measures To Eradicate Drunkenness and Alcoholism" in all its aspects, avoiding both passivity and over-zealousness and concentrating on preventive education, instilling firm antialcohol values in all Soviet people, organizing meaningful recreation for the population, particularly young people, strengthening discipline in the workplace, and establishing order in public places.

The CPSU Central Committee stressed the need for an uncompromising campaign against home distilling, which is one of the most dangerous ways in which drunkenness and alcoholism spread. To achieve this it is necessary to make full use of the authority of public opinion and the force of our laws.

When implementing measures to regulate the liquor trade, soviet bodies and trade organizations must swiftly remove the conditions giving rise to queues for liquor. In doing so they must in no circumstances allow the resumption of sales of alcohol near children's preschool institutions and schools, outside factory gates, in places of working people's recreation, or on transport.

The USSR MVD and the USSR Ministry of Justice are recommended to join interested departments in conducting an in-depth study of the effectiveness of the use of existing antialcohol legislation and, if necessary, make relevant proposals.

The CPSU Central Committee made it incumbent on party organizations to react in a principled and uncompromising manner to all breaches of antialcohol legislation and passivity on the part of Communists, particularly leading personnel, in implementing the party's course of establishing a healthy way of life.

The resolution notes serious shortcomings in the media's work covering problems connected with the eradication of drunkenness and alcoholism. Many of their efforts are not specific, penetrating, and hard-hitting enough and they fail to pay close enough attention to positive experience. Superficial, glib opinions, mere statement of the difficulties, and gloating over sensational facts often take the place of a skilled analysis of the situation and the causes and the conditions that contribute to the preservation of drinking traditions.

Newspaper, journal, television, and radio editorial boards were told to fundamentally improve coverage of these problems and to carry out systematic, in-depth, skilled work, paying special attention to demonstrating positive experience in establishing a healthy way of life, the sensible use of working people's free time, the methods and content of cultural enlightenment and educational work, and the invalidity of the positions of the advocates of both the "dry law" and "civilized drinking," and to harshly criticize passivity in the campaign against drunkenness.

Decisions Commemorating Brezhnev Reversed

PM3110111788 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 6

[S. Taranov report under the rubric "Fact and Commentary": "They Have Rejected the Name of L.I. Brezhnev"]

[Text] In a joint resolution the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR

Council of Ministers have rescinded the previous decision of 18 November 1982 to name the Nurek GES for L.I. Brezhnev.

This decision has been made at the request of Nurek's working people.

"The question of renaming the GES was raised by the power station workers at the trade union report and election conference," said A. Malinov, first secretary of the Nurek Tajik Communist Party Gorkom. "The speakers there correctly noted that L.I. Brezhnev's contribution to the development of the city and the station is not enough for his name to remain there forever. Leonid Ilich was in Nurek once, in 1970, and, so to speak, resolved certain questions.... The party gorkom and the city public supported the working people's requests and approached the directive organs about it."

"What will the GES be called now?"

"This has still not been decided. But the Nurek GES is well known throughout the country, even without a name."

It remains to be added that L.I. Brezhnev's name is encountered increasingly rarely in our cities and in the names of national economic facilities. As the IZVESTIYA correspondent was told at the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the former names have been returned to the city of Naberezhnyye Chelny and Cheremushkinskiy Rayon in Moscow, and the names of the L.I. Brezhnev Squares in Alma-Ata, Moscow, and Leningrad have been abolished. Zvezdnyy Gorodok and a Navy ship have been stripped of his name. The L.I. Brezhnev scholarships at Moscow State University, the Dnepropetrovsk Metallurgical Institute, and the Dneprodzerzhinsk Industrial Institute have been abolished.

Party Official Criticized for Removing Wreath

PM3110105188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Oct 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Report by own correspondent A. Kleva under the "Local Press" rubric": "How the Wreath Disappeared"—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] On 16 October the oblast newspaper ZORYA POLTAVSHCHINY told its readers a story which we publish below in the account of IZVESTIYA's own correspondent A. Kleva.

In Lokhvitsa, on Sunday 2 October, priests of the Orthodox Church and parishioners marked the millennium of Christianity in Russia. After a solemn service held at the Blagoveshchenskiy Chapel the ceremony switched to the city center, to Victory Square and the Flame of Eternal Glory, which burns alongside a monument and memorial stela. The stela bears the names of the inhabitants of Lokhvitsa who died in the fighting against the German fascist invaders.

After a memorial service the believers of Lokhvitskiy and surrounding rayons laid at the foot of the memorial fresh flowers and a 1.5-meter-high wreath with a white cross of artificial flowers and a band bearing the inscription "From Orthodox Laymen in Honor of the Millennium of the Coming of Christianity to Russia."

The religious ceremony brought many people together: For the first time in many years believers conducted ceremonial rites openly, without secrecy, in an atmosphere of genuine freedom of religion. And after the 15-minute ceremony people did not disperse. They admired the wreath and read the inscription on the band.

However, late the following evening the wreath was removed. This was done by tractor driver N. Slinchuk on the instructions of A. Dorogokupil, director of the municipal enterprises combine.

Complaints began to pour into the ZORYA POLTAVSHCHINY correspondents' center, newspaper correspondent D. Brovar wrote.

"We live on the outskirts of the city. We learned from people that believers had placed a very beautiful wreath at the servicemen's memorial and the Flame of Eternal Glory in commemoration of our men who died at the front. We went to see, but it was no longer there. Is this really human?!"

What can one say to these elderly women? I asked A. Dorogokupil.

"I was carrying out the instructions of Party Raykom Secretary Nikolay Petrovich Solonets, who told me: 'Let the wreath remain until Monday evening, but remove it when it gets dark, so fewer people see you.' Where is the wreath? We have it in the morticians' workshop, we're not going to throw it on the dump! The flowers are new and the metal frame can still be used," Anatoliy Nikolayevich said.

Party Raykom Secretary N.P. Solonets is in charge of ideological questions, so problems of spiritual values and atheism are not alien to him. Did he not know how the millennium of Christianity in Russia was being marked in our country and throughout the world and what significance that the consolidation of party members and nonparty people, believers and nonbelievers, has today, at a time of profound changes in our society?

Yes, we are atheists. We are entitled to and must conduct atheist propaganda and try to make people change their minds. But we should never make mockery of believers' feelings.

Economic

Slyunkov Speaks at Central Committee Conference

LD3110164988 Moscow TASS in English 1614 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Text] Moscow October 31 TASS—A conference at the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee today discussed the problems of enhancing the system of accounting for profit and loss and extending it to cover every workstation.

In the light of the decisions of the 19th national party conference it examined the package of issues connected with completing the fashioning of new economic machinery and increasing production efficiency.

The conference was attended by the heads of ministries and other economic agencies, senior officials from the Party Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the National Central Council of Trade Unions, the central committees of the communist parties of constituent republics and regional party committees, scientists, managers and representatives of worker collectives in various economic sectors.

They were addressed by Nikolay Slyunkov, a member of the Politburo and a secretary of the Party Central Committee.

Prime Cost Key to Avoiding Price Increases

PM3110094588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Oct 88 Second Edition p 2

[Interview with Candidate of Economic Sciences K. Khmelkov by O. Stepanenko: "The View 'From the Land.' A 'Compromise' Between Cost and Prices Is Possible"—date, place not specified]

[Text] Among the problems that are worrying perhaps everyone today, a special place belongs to food and consumer goods prices. Why are cheap goods being swept off the shelves, why are cooperative meat and sausages expensive, how is the economic mechanism to be regulated? By reforming prices? Our correspondent asked Candidate of Economic Sciences K. Khmelkov, director of the "Khimki" agricultural trade enterprise in Moscow Oblast, to share his views on the subject.

[Stepanenko] Kim Nikolayevich, your enterprise was set up on the basis of the "Put K Kommunizmu" Sovkhoz and subunits of the Khimki food trade institution. So production and sales are in the same hands. You must be particularly acutely aware of the disadvantages of the current prices setup.

[Khmelkov] The cost of producing a number of products is higher than the earnings on them. The price does not cover the cost. To raise 1 kg of beef for example, we spend R3.4. It sells for R0.5 less in the store. There are many farms where beef costs R6-8 and milk 50-80 kopeks per liter. But the customer pays one-half or one-third. The discrepancy is too great. Food subsidies, as is well known, have reached R66 billion.

[Stepanenko] Many economists are convinced that retail prices of commodities, primarily food, must be increased to prevent entire sectors from operating at a loss.

[Khmelkov] Strange as it may seem, I am against it.

[Stepanenko] Why? After all, it would be easier for your enterprise then.

[Khmelkov] There is a saying: When pursuing profit do not forget about the consequences. We must all look somewhat further than the ends of our own noses, if you will excuse the expression. We must be masters, citizens, and patriots. What effect will price rises have on the people's living standard? It is said that the low-paid will be compensated for the extra expenditure on foodstuffs by extra pay. They will not lose out, apparently. Is that so? Take a look at Moscow's stores: There appears to be meat available, but people with modest incomes do not always buy it. Some people are better off than others. Families with low incomes will receive compensation. But what will it go on? It will go on the more expensive industrial goods: clothing, footwear, linen, furniture. The consumption of goods—which is not very high anyway—will obviously have to be cut and, as a result, even fewer goods will be bought than now.

What about the people with medium or high incomes? These are the skilled workers. They work for their money, and not without reason. The increase in prices will hit their family budgets. So it seems that their income will automatically drop, for no reason at all. Where is the social justice in that?

What else could happen? One person really puts his heart into his work, another is a slacker. So he earns less money. But will compensation put him on a level with the conscientious worker? This is too much like the practice of wage leveling and violates the principle "to each according to his labor." Regulation, and price rises in particular, is complex and involves a lot of work. It could even undermine faith in restructuring. I think that the scientists who favor this approach to improving the economy's health have not seen the consequences for the economy itself.

[Stepanenko] What kind of consequences exactly?

[Khmelkov] Where will the state find the resources for this compensation? I think it will mainly come out of enterprises' economically accountable income. This is the most realistic source. This means that output prime costs at plants and factories will rise. So their prices will rise. Otherwise, under the self-financing system, an enterprise would go bankrupt. In short, there will be

price rises all around. It will not strengthen the economy. On the contrary, it will undermine it. And this undermining process will begin at the lowest level.

[Stepanenko] What do you mean?

[Khmelkov] I am thinking of normal, everyday situations. If prices rise, do you think the members of cooperatives are going to put up with holes in their budgets? In order to maintain the standard of living they have achieved, they will have to increase the price of their own goods and services. And will they be the only ones to do this? You will have to pay out extra rubles, R3 notes, to mechanics and repair workers from the housing maintenance office. This kind of thing has happened before. A chain reaction. Resulting in neither goods nor commodities.

[Stepanenko] So what is the answer?

[Khmelkov] A reduction in expenditure and prime cost. There are boundless reserves here.

[Stepanenko] Could you give us some details?

[Khmelkov] It costs us R304 to produce 1 tonne of milk. If we replaced the conventional pulsators with low vacuum equipment that would protect the cows against mastitis (a "cheap" measure), we would gain 10-15 percent more milk. But we do not have that kind of equipment. Industry simply will not get its production organized. Such a small matter, but by reducing the prime cost of milk production we would save a minimum of R190,000. And R2.5 billion across the country as a whole!

Another example: Farms in the oblast have not been allocated shafts for artesian well pumps in their funds for the coming year. These shafts cost hardly anything: R1.25 each. But farm productivity depends on them. The Moscow Oblast Agro-Industrial Committee had to look for someone to take the order. An experimental plant under the "Energiya" Science and Production Association agreed to take it. But at a cost of R23.15 per shaft. That is 18 times more expensive! The explanation given was that they are in limited production....

There are thousands of examples like these. And what kind of pressure does poor quality equipment place on prime costs? You buy a grain harvesting combine, for example—again, you pay out a lot of money. A skilled machine operator spends a month getting to understand all the couplings and attachments. His wages have to be paid, but there is no output. So prices rise.

Get industry running smoothly and coordinate its work with agriculture, and the prime costs of producing grain, meat, milk, and vegetables will be cut by billions of rubles. This is one of the main areas for improvement in the economy which we can see "from down here," from the land, on the farm.

[Stepanenko] So you mean there are other areas?

[Khmelkov] Undoubtedly. Within the agro-industrial complex itself. Painful though it may be, I must repeat that our products are made more expensive by our partners. We can deliver 1 tonne of organic fertilizer to the fields ourselves at a cost of R1.05, but the agricultural chemicalization service charges R3.86. Every year we pay it R29,000 too much. We pay an extra R1,000 to our mechanics for periodical servicing. But if the same amount of work is done by a rayon-level technical repair enterprise it costs R30,000. Thirty times as much! But the biggest expense is caused by the fact that virtually serviceable equipment is still being sent in for major repairs. Just think, in the past year specialized enterprises have overhauled one in two tractor motors belonging to farms in the oblast. Despite the fact that only one-fifth of these motors are supposed to undergo major repair work each year. In this way alone, farms spend R4.5 million more than they need. What is more, they wreck plant samples ahead of time by assembling them in primitive conditions.

[Stepanenko] Has anyone calculated the scale of this loss?

[Khmelkov] Yes. Scientists from the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The total cost of partners' failure to coordinate and work together across the country as a whole amounts to R60 billion. Or half the value of what is cultivated by rural areas in the fields and on the farms.

[Stepanenko] As far as I am aware, the estimates were made several years ago. Now partners' prosperity is supposedly associated with the harvest yield and livestock units' work. An adjustment obviously must be made.

[Khmelkov] Not a very great one, unfortunately. As you can see from the examples I have given, there have been no cardinal changes. Restructuring has not been brought to its logical conclusion in the agro-industrial complex. Why has the management structure been changed and integrated? In order to rebuild the production structure. But it is still the same as before. And not only in the field of repair work. We process our forage grain, all 500 tonnes of it, ourselves. We used to give it to the state in order to obtain mixed feed. Transport had to be diverted for the purpose, combine harvesters were left standing idle, and the harvest dragged on. Because of losses in the field, our harvest was over 100 tonnes of grain short. Most farms make losses today for this very reason. They take the grain away to have it returned later in the form of mixed feed. Time is wasted and a great deal of fuel and transport used. And, most important of all, because of the shortage of vehicles a considerable part of the harvest is lost in the fields. These are colossal losses in terms of the country as a whole! And a colossal reserve for reducing prime costs.

[Stepanenko] It is not so simple to change the structure of the production basis. It also takes money. And the return will not be immediate.

[Khmelkov] A great deal would be repaid immediately. Those spare parts should be moved to the equipment and given directly to the farms. Along with material for servicing. Less forage grain should be taken there and back again. Some of the equipment and motor vehicles from specialized enterprises and organizations should be distributed among kolkhozes and sovkhozes. All this will work better for the end result. In short, every unit of resources should be transferred to where it will produce the greatest effect.

For example, our Moscow Oblast is destined by its very nature to produce milk. There is a rich selection of feed available for the dairy herd. In developed countries, incidentally, there are well defined specialized dairy regions around the major cities. We should do the same in the Moscow region. Specialists believe that the productivity of the dairy herd would sharply increase. Changes could even be made within the oblast itself. Not many people live in the outlying regions. If they were to specialize in fattening livestock, less manpower would be needed. These regions could become more meaningfully involved in the production of coarse feed, hay in particular. It goes without saying that this approach not only applies to livestock raising. Zonal specialization is one of the main reserves for reducing prime costs.

Cutting the size of the administrative apparatus could also give a great deal. Everything seems to have been said on this issue. I will cite one episode, nevertheless. I ran into an acquaintance the other day. We have set up a construction cooperative, he said, but there is something we cannot understand: We are doing exactly what we did before, but we are getting three times as much and the projects cost less. What is so strange about that? I said to him. The multitiered administrative system has disappeared—the construction and installation administration, the mobile mechanized column, the construction trust, association, main administration: You used to work for them, for the sake of paperwork.

We can see a lot more reserves for reducing output prime costs from where we stand, from the land. It is impossible to list them all here. Instead of racking our brains as to who in the economic chain should get increased prices and by how much, for "incentive" purposes, we should be looking for ways to reduce prime costs.

[Stepanenko] Many people believe that raising prices will economically legitimize and encourage the shortcomings in the economic mechanism.

[Khmelkov] Its cost-based nature will be stimulated. Such prices are extensive. They do not reflect socially necessary expenditure but actual expenditure, which is often based on scandalously bad management. Restructuring demands a different, strictly economic approach.

[Stepanenko] What about subsidized food products?

[Khmelkov] I believe these subsidies must be retained. Incidentally, all developed countries "sustain" their agrarian sector. And on a very large scale. Only measures must be taken to ensure that these resources go to rural areas and not to the people who extort money from them by raising the prices of goods and services. We need tough state control on prices. Unruly elements must be curbed. There is no other way. We can already see where unchecked cooperative prices are leading. And not only cooperative prices. So, what are the concerns of rural workers? The freedom of initiative enjoyed by industrial enterprises under the economic accountability system sometimes leads to quite different results than those hoped for. Plants kick aside "petty requirements," fall behind in their state orders, undertake only what is going to give them an enormous profit, and shamelessly hike their prices. The countryside, rejected by industrial production units which could, with minimal outlay, manufacture those "petty items," is forced to wander in the labyrinths of haphazard methods. And ugly competition is involuntarily promoted when orders for those "petty items" are placed with those who will use the most labor and resources to produce them. A vicious cycle. And, obviously, it is paid for three times over by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

We need an effective economic regulator that objectively reflects socially necessary expenditure. I believe that an aggregate advantage indicator could be just such a regulator. We should remunerate only that which is not to the detriment of partners and society, in comparison with the existing optimum variant, which has now proved its worth. More should be paid for anything which increases aggregate advantage and saves total work time. Incidentally, a number of economists are of the opinion that this advantage would be better gauged in terms of time. Science should look into this.

In general terms, we must draft a clear program to reduce output prime costs and begin to put it into action. There are large reserves for reducing expenditure—and not only in the agro-industrial complex.

Academy Economist Decries State Sector 'Dawdling'

PM3110152588 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 43, 22-28 Oct 88, (Signed to Press 20 Oct 88) p 3

[Own correspondent N. Zhelnorova interview with Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences P.G. Bunich, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Scientific Council on the Problems of Enterprise Economic Accountability and Self-Financing, under the rubric "Conversations on the Economy": "Why Is the State Sector Dawdling?"—date and place unspecified; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] This is the second year many enterprises throughout the country have been operating on the basis of economic accountability [khozraschet]. At one time economic accountability was seen virtually as a panacea for

the chronic shortages, the shiftlessness of producers, and their alienation from the consumer. However, the situation with the output of goods is improving more slowly than had been expected. Why? Is economic accountability "to blame"? How can the situation be put right?

Our correspondent N. Zhelnorova asked Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences P.G. Bunich, chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Scientific Council on the Problems of Enterprise Economic Accountability and Self-Financing, to answer these questions.

Bunich: Three laws have been drafted, on state enterprise, the cooperative movement, and individual labor activity; all are based on economic accountability. In the Law on Cooperatives its mechanism is such that cooperatives need no further spur.

Individual labor activity is like the cooperatives, only it is based on one person. They too have an effective law. The Law on State Enterprise proclaims two different economic accountability models. But both models are far from perfect. Virtually every enterprise has "tried out" the first model and this produced hardly any positive results. Now they have begun to regard the second model with euphoria, in the belief that it is better. But if we take a closer look, we have to admit that "there is not much to choose between two evils." Why?

Let us take a look at the "pie" with which an enterprise is left after paying differentiated deductions into the budget and into various funds. With the first model 60 percent, say, of this pie is made up of the wages fund. The rest consists of development and incentive funds. With the second model—the pie is the same. The recommending authorities say: First form the incentive funds (40 percent is the norm). And what is left? The same 60 percent. It is like castling in chess and changes nothing. People have failed to grasp that even with the second model they will not have a portion left over, as they had hoped, but a portion that is the wages fund, as in the first model.

Correspondent: But where did the wages normative come from—60 percent in the first model and, as it transpires, the same in the second?

Bunich: From the basic wage rate. In other words, the collective is still (and this is with economic accountability!) not actually earning its wage! It is left with what it had before, with the addition of a small increase in the best instance—for fulfilling an augmented plan, which basically changes nothing. Whatever you had before you will continue to get in the future. And surely it was not always the case before that whoever worked hardest received the most money?

But we do not need this! We must stop paying people last year's wages!

Who is in the most advantageous position: The ones with the highest plans or the ones with the lowest? The answer is obvious. Where are these models leading us? They are taking us backward rather than forward.

Correspondent: How is it that you, a scientist, did not realize this before, when the law was being worked out?

Bunich: We did criticize this, even before the law was passed. We said that under no circumstances must wages be determined by the past.

Can these models now improve the situation? No, they cannot. In principle, the situation is the same as it was before the law was passed. I see this as an explanation of why the state sector is not working as it should.

Whereas previously the cooperatives were not competitive, now it is the state sector that finds itself in this position. An extremely dangerous phenomenon is arising here. Money plays a considerable role in this respect. Live and dead rubles are now "wandering around" in our economy. As far as cooperatives are concerned, it is mainly live rubles, but in the state sector it is only dead ones.

Correspondent: By "dead," you mean rubles that are not in cash and not backed up by a commodity?

Bunich: No, I do not mean rubles that are not in cash; I am thinking of money that is "indifferent." Let us admit that the cooperatives are presently "robbing" the state sector. And the state sector is "surrendering itself" with great pleasure. In the state sector people earn R200, but far from everyone there really "gives it their all." In cooperatives, of course, people are earning R500 rather than R200, but they do work much harder for their money. Many are rushing to join cooperatives, but only those who still have the will and the strength to do so, of course.

This is not the only example of national wealth being pumped from the state sector into the cooperatives. I know a cooperative which suggested to a state enterprise that it transfer it to a lease system. And then it had the cheek to ask for R50,000 for this. Although R500 would have been quite sufficient. But do workers employed in the state sector have any inclination to study documents and instructions, champion a cause with the higher authorities, and generally put themselves out? It is easier for a state enterprise to pay out vast sums of money than bestir itself. Why? Because this money comes from the state rather than out of its own pocket—it does not even come out of the wages fund, it comes from the production development fund, which it does not mind parting with. A cooperative would not pay that kind of money for anything. This is the live and dead money I am talking about! And that is not all.

The state sector and also state consumer cooperatives are gladly ceding their positions by leasing out production facilities and stores. They are paid paltry sums for this: As a rule, they receive nothing at all or just a token sum for land and even less for premises. They confine themselves to amortization and forget about lease profit. And what does the state sector lose in this respect? At first glance, only one thing—the plan is pitched lower or, in other words, work stress reduced. But what is sold by the cooperatives is included in the accounts of state stores and cafes. A miracle!

The state sector is not only throwing away trade, it is also giving cooperatives its means of communication and transport. They are then left to raise the prices and share the revenue with the lessors.

A director from the state sector came to me and said: I make t-shirts and they (the cooperatives) print a short logo on them and sell them for several times the price. He was indignant. Can you imagine? But who is stopping him from printing this logo himself (or even adding something else)? But he is simply not interested. He will not print this logo.

If matters continue like this, the state sector will go on sleeping. There is no growth in competition between state and cooperative enterprises—the state sector is simply quitting the battle. The department for combating the embezzlement of socialist property and speculation is trying to combat all these deformations and deceptions, bans on price increases are being introduced, and the lists of goods it is permitted to sell to cooperatives are being cut. But all this is not the most important. The most important thing of all is to introduce the kind of economic accountability into the state sector whereby it will not pay out a kopek too much, will enter the field of competition, and will often emerge the winner. The cooperative movement must also be strengthened so that competition begins there too.

Correspondent: And what about raw materials? Whenever people find a shortage of something, they think that the cooperatives have taken everything. How much truth is there in this?

Bunich: The state sector always tries to take more raw material from the state than it needs, to keep some in reserve, and now it is trying to get hold of even more—to sell to cooperatives. Once in possession of the raw material, within a short time the enterprise says that it does not need it, that no one wants to buy it for the full price, and, rather than let it go to waste, that it would be better to sell it 2-3 times more cheaply—even in comparison to the relatively cheap wholesale prices. In short, the cooperatives know where everything is sold and how to buy it.

Bribes can also be involved here, incidentally. Bribes "work," whereas the state sector system itself does not. Or, to be more precise, it works for the cooperatives. The black economy is in operation everywhere and flourishing, but the main economy is sitting idle. So it is time, before it is too late, to come to our senses and primarily shake up the state sector (before it disintegrates entirely, because it still has some way to go) by extending to it much of the Law on Cooperatives.

Correspondent: What would this give the state sector?

Bunich: A very great deal. It would wake up the state sector and free its hands. Here is your pie, we would say, in future do not divide it up on the basis of last year, the same for all, "according to plan," but as it is best for you. It really is a strange, absurd situation when people at a loss-making enterprise receive a lot of money simply because they did the year before, although now their work is only fair to middling. If we had a model that was not normative based, the situation would improve.

Correspondent: What do you mean, "not normative based"?

Bunich: A bit like the cooperative system, really. Pay your tax to the state, deduct material outlays—and nothing more. All the remaining funds (wages, material incentive, social development, risk, and so forth) would be built up at your own discretion.

But officials are afraid that then some people would have very high wages, although it is absurd to suppose that enterprises will "drive" the whole of their income from economic accountability into the wages fund. On the other hand, I do know those who transfer their incentive fund to their social development fund. There is nothing to spend this money on at present, they say, so we will build some housing. People weigh up their own interests very well.

In order to secure development funds it would be a good idea to apply a special tax mechanism to the distribution of income gained under the economic accountability system: The wages fund should be taxed, the social development fund taxed, but more moderately, and the development fund not cut at all. Then, starting from a certain wage level, it would be advantageous to increase the development fund rather than the wages fund, as the development fund is the basis for reproduction and any future increase in wages.

And the correlation between growth in productivity and the average wage which is being introduced now will plummet, as people will have no interest in working better.

Correspondent: You are pinning your hopes on the Law on Cooperatives, but you yourself have cited a number of examples showing the "plundering" nature of cooperatives. And what about prices?!

Bunich: We cannot blame coopratives for rising prices. They are rising more in the state sector than in cooperatives. We may not even feel the pinpricks caused by cooperatives because they form only a small proportion of the economy as a whole, but we are constantly aware of those caused by the state sector. Since 1960 the ruble has "shrunk" 2.5 times, according to official departments. It cannot be ruled out that it has actually become even lighter than that. Do you know how the people joke about the exchange rate between the pound, the dollar, and the ruble? A pound of rubles is equivalent to one dollar.

Correspondent: Is there not a danger that, with an economic accountability system that is not normative based, wages will rise to such an extent that the already large disproportion between money and commodities will increase still further?

Bunich: Many people are afraid this will happen. It is perhaps the main argument against a non-normative-based economic accountability system. Without economic accountability it is indeed easier to monitor proportions (although even here there are foul-ups), but there is nothing to build them from. This means that there is no alternative to economic accountability. Only interest can get production off the ground. It is the root of well-being.

Agricultural

Sovkhoz 'Currency' Produces Economic Savings

PM2810133988 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Oct 88 p 4

[Unpaid correspondent M. Karmanov report under the "Steps in Economic Accountability" rubric: "Unusual Order"]

[Text] Sverdlovsk Oblast—The order received by the rayon printing press from "Sukholozhskiy" Sovkhoz perturbed even the experienced printers. The farm's administration asked them to print...monetary tokens, no more and no less. In R1, R3, R5, R10, and R100 denominations. True enough, the order did point out that these "assignats" would circulate only within the farm and that they could be printed on ordinary paper. But even so....

The ultimate solution was to delete the word "ruble" from the tokens. The soundness of the sovkhoz "money" had to be certified by the farm's seal. Only then did the printing press fulfill the unusual order.

The idea of producing its own "monetary tokens" occurred to the sovkhoz after the introduction of economic accountability. Prior to that, no appeals could persuade machine operators and motor vehicle drivers to save fuel and to look after the equipment.

Here is how everything works in practice. At the start of every quarter, the accounts office issues a certain amount of sovkhoz "money" to each driver and machine operator (incidentally, this money has already been named "Shilov money," for "Sukholozhskiy" Director A. Shilov). The driver cannot do anything without this money, because nothing is any longer simply handed out on the sovkhoz.

You fill up your vehicle or tractor with fuel and you pay. You must also dip into your pocket for spare parts from the warehouse. Vehicle repairs and the services of welders, turners, or medical personnel must also be paid for. If you are short of "money," it means that you have been too much of a spendthrift and have nobody but yourself to blame, nobody will do anything for nothing. On the other hand, anything left over at the end of the quarter from the sum which was originally issued stays in the machine operator's pockets. And not just internal sovkhoz "pieces of paper," of course—the cashier's office exchanges the "money" bearing the seal for ordinary rubles at a set rate of exchange. For example, a machine operator receives 70 kopeks for every sovkhoz "ruble" he has saved, while motor vehicle drivers receive 95 kopeks.

It must be said that drivers and machine operators did not need too long a time to restructure themselves. S. Ivanov, machine operator in the feed production shop, told me:

"My tractor broke down a few days ago. Previously I would have driven it to the workshop and let them worry about it. Now I did something else—I 'bought' the part in the store and fitted it myself...."

The "competition" by machine operators has made workshop workers think and seek ways to attract "customers." Henceforth, they guarantee all machine repairs done by them.

And now about the initial results of this experiment. One result of the introduction of sovkhoz "money" has been that the farm's cash office has started building up its reserves of perfectly real money. In the very 1st month the sovkhoz saved 13 tonnes of diesel fuel and about 3 tonnes of gasoline, along with R6,500 saved on current repairs.

"Sukholozhskiy" intends to expand the sphere of its "currency's" circulation, extending it to other types of work.

RSFSR Presidium Airs Food Supply Problems

PM2710164988 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 22 Oct 88 Second Edition p 1

[V. Lyashenko report: "At the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Urgent Concerns"]

[Text] A session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium took place yesterday, 21 October 1988, to discuss a question that can leave no inhabitant of Russia

indifferent—the question of measures to increase food production and improve the provision of foodstuffs for the population. Of course, everyone realizes the topicality of this question, but it was once again underlined here by the fact that the exacting discussion on increasing production and improving supply referred not to some far-off time but to a specific timeframe—the years 1988-1990. That is, the tangible, very immediate, and foreseeable future. The session discussed products that should be on our food shelves here and now, what they will be filled with by the end of this year and next year, and how things will look by the year 1990.

For instance, the following was said frankly and bluntly: During this time (1988-1990) there is a real possibility—and it must be brought to fruition without fail—to fully meet the population's requirements in terms of rational food norms for dairy products, poultry, vegetable and animal fats, potatoes, vegetables, fish products, groat crops, margarine, eggs, tea, confectionery goods, and, of course, bread and macaroni.

As for meat, the task of ensuring a substantial and perceptible increase in meat supplies in this 5-year plan is on the agenda. What form will this increase take? We won't weary the reader with compound calculation figures; we will merely say that next year it seems quite feasible, for instance, to achieve a 1-million-tonne increase in purchases of livestock and poultry (liveweight) based on this year's 5-year-plan targets. All this means that it is quite possible to raise the average RSFSR (barring Moscow and Leningrad) per capita consumption of meat products to no less than 71 kg in 1989. These figures are indisputably impressive!

A.V. Vlasov, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, stopped one speaker: Comrades, aren't we being too lavish with our promises? People have grown tired of promises.... Let's consider over and over again whether what we're planning is really feasible. I will ask each speaker to substantiate precisely, clearly, and responsibly every item and every figure in our program.

Well, we all still remember the times when people were only fed promises and assurances. However, the entire logic of today's restructuring, the practice of breaking up existing economic relations in the agrarian sector that is increasingly thoroughly encompassing, and which is affecting more and more strata of life in the countryside of today, and which is increasingly decisively replowing them by returning to the individual the feeling of proprietorship and a sense of his own worth—all this is creating a fundamentally new situation and opening up new opportunities.

Yet this is no flight of fancy but a reliable fact: In this 1 year alone collectives—most of the collectives that have switched to the lease contract—have achieved an increase of 1 tonne and sometimes of 1.5 tonnes in the grain yield per hectare and 500, 600, and even 1,000 kg of milk per cow....

Let us repeat that the discussion at the session was thoroughly specific and at times impartial. Especially in the context of supplying the population with products whose shortage is simply inexplicable now from the viewpoint of what has been achieved. Take, for instance, the current supply of potatoes and vegetables. How could there be frequent holdups in the supply of potatoes and vegetables even in such regions as, for example, Maritime and Khabarovsk Krays and Rostov, Saratov, Ryazan, and Yaroslavl Oblasts, where there is every opportunity to put an end once and for all to the annoying and incomprehensible hardships over potatoes, cucumbers, and tomatoes?

We all know and see that today, for instance, there has been a considerable easing of the strain in, for instance, supplying our cities and industrial centers with poultry: chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys.... Today the task has been set of ensuring an uninterrupted poultry trade.... The proportion of goose meat production will rise noticeably; geese are advantageous birds and, given the correct breeding technology, are indisputably profitable.... Personal rural plots will sharply increase pork supplies in stores' meat departments—there are plans to sell the population 12-15 million piglets per year for fattening while simultaneously providing them with concentrated feed. A very impressive figure.

A great deal of attention was devoted to the development of enterprises' and organizations' subsidiary farms. Certainly, the meat, milk, and vegetables they produce are still costly.... Approval was given to the experience of enterprises leasing unprofitable, laggard, and ruined kolkhozes or sovkhozes, injecting them with new life, so to speak. The specific and quite feasible task is being set of providing every worker of an enterprise possessing a subsidiary farm with no less than 10 kg of meat and 15 kg of milk—quite a tidy addition to the overall meat balance—in the immediate future.

Yet another clear theme ran through the speeches: the processing, storage, and transportation of what has been produced, in which vast labor has been invested. For we really do lose so much in this way! Let us recall the figures heard at a meeting at the CPSU Central Committee, where the problems of introducing the lease were discussed: If everything produced was fully preserved and processed in the right fashion, food supplies would be increased by 25 percent, and in some places 40 percent. This is a real, vast reserve that could ensure a sharp increase in food potential! It is paradoxical but a fact that capital investments in this sphere are 3-4 times more effective than expenditure strictly on the production of agricultural output. As was stressed at the session, that is why resources must be channeled into this area first.

Summing up the results of the session, A.V. Vlasov, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, once again stressed: A crucial and very binding resolution is being

adopted—it is a question of fulfilling the party conference decisions in order to make a radical breakthrough in the population's food supply and of fulfilling the Food Program without fail. Let us have a rethink and consider ways to implement the difficult tasks facing the country.

Late October Weather, State of Crops Reported

PM2810164988 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Oct 88 p 2

[Report by agrometeorologist S. Malikova: "The Weather and the Crops"]

[Text] In the European territory of the USSR the weather remained mainly mild and dry for most of the past 10 days, thus favoring the growth of winter grain crops and the completion of harvest work. Then it got colder. There were air and ground frosts everywhere, ranging from minus 1-minus 5 to minus 6-minus 10 degrees. They placed warmth-loving crops in jeopardy and may have damaged vegetable root crops that have been lifted but not gathered in.

In the Northwest, North, Volga-Vyatka, and Ural regions and in northern parts of the Central and Volga regions winter grain crops stopped growing 10-20 days later than usual. Over the bulk of the area plants have put out 2-4 side shoots on average. Early sown crops have sprung up to a height of more than 40 cm. The arable soil layer contained 30-50 mm of productive moisture in the main. The first phase of hardening in winter crops took place in favorable circumstances. In the Baltic area, Belorussia, southern parts of the Central region, and in northern parts of the Ukraine and the Central Chernozem region the crops were in good or satisfactory condition. In southern parts of the Ukraine and the Central Chernozem region, most parts of the North Caucasus, and southern parts of the Volga region there was a diminution of productive moisture reserves in the arable layer and conditions for winter grain crop growth deteriorated somewhat.

In the Transcaucasian republics the mild weather persisted at the start of the period. Rain (20-66 mm and more), which fell over a period of 3-5 days, hampered the harvesting and drying of cotton and the harvesting of corn, vegetables, and fruit crops.

It was cold in Siberia and in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan. There was precipitation nearly everywhere, mainly in the form of snow accompanied by gusty winds. The minimum temperature was between minus 5 and minus 15 degrees, which may have caused damage to unharvested vegetable crops and leaves on winter grain crops.

In the Central Asian republics mild days were followed by colder weather. There was air and ground frost (down to minus 7 degrees) nearly everywhere, except the extreme south of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenia. The frost caused damage to unripe cotton bolls and unharvested warmth-loving crops. There was rain in most areas (5-15 mm and more), which improved conditions for germination and the emergence of winter grain shoots.

In the Far East the weather remained moderately warm with a little rain, thus aiding the completion of field work. Only in certain areas did rain hamper the soybean harvest and fall plowing.

Cold Weather Threatens Moldavian Crops

LD0111001588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 31 Oct 88

[Summary] A sudden spell of cold weather is threatening unharvested vegetables and fruits in some areas of Moldavia; a large proportion of the sugar beet crop, which has been dug up but not yet cleared from the fields, is under threat. Lack of railway tankers to deliver fuel for field machinery is the reason taking produce from the fields is at a slow pace. While people are trying to blame the Ministry of Railways, the State Agro-Industrial Committee, or the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, the crop is perishing.

Crimean Oblast Fulfill Grain Plan

AU2710161588 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 22 Oct 88 p 1

[Report by PRAVDA UKRAINY correspondent O. Pronina: "To the Fatherland's Granaries"]

[Text] Crimean Oblast has fulfilled the annual plan for the sale of grain to the state. It has delivered to reception centers 730,850 tonnes of grain, including 369,000 tonnes of valuable strain wheat. The planned targets have been significantly exceeded by Leninskiy, Sakskiy, Simferopolskiy, and Belogorskiy Rayon farmers. But Chernomorskiy Rayon farmers may regard the current year as a triumphant one. From rather poor soil without irrigation, they managed to obtain excellent yields and to sell the state 26,240 tonnes of grain, against the planned 21,000 tonnes.

The rice harvest is close to completion. Some 70,000 tonnes of rice have already been sold to the state. The highest per-hectare yields of rice, 64 quintals, have been obtained by the Chapayev kolkhoz in Sovetskiy Rayon.

Sales of corn grain, wheat, sorghum, oats, and rice are continuing.

Agricultural Developments for 23-29 Oct

LD3010001488 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 23-29 October. GMT times of broadcast are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

25 October

Sowing of winter crops has been completed in Uzbekistan's Fergana Valley. Over 600,000 hectares are now allocated to cereal growing in Uzbekistan. Nearly all of this area will be sown with winter wheat. This year's harvest in Uzbekistan was much better than planned. (0304)

Grain farmers in Kazakhstan have completed the harvesting of cereal crops. More than 100,000 combines took part in the work. All of the powered farm vehicles have now been returned to their yards, and mechanics are starting to prepare machinery for the next harvest. Rice cultivators have completed their work, and the picking of sugar beets has ended. In spite of the intensity of the harvest work, sovkhozes and kolkhozes have successfully carried out the sowing of winter crops, the plan has been overfulfilled, and autumn plowing for spring sowing is being conducted on the final hectares. Tractor teams and plowmen are ahead of last year's timescale by 4.5 million hectares. (1200)

26 October

Gosagroprom specialists calculate that 5 million tonnes of cotton will have been procured in Uzbekistan by the end of this month. (0304)

27 October

The dry summer made life difficult for farmers in the northern oblasts of Kazakhstan this year. Nevertheless, over 2 million tonnes of grain crops have been sold to the state by the farmers of Tselinograd Oblast, giving them first place in Kazakhstan and third place in the country as a whole. They have now plowed up 4 million hectares of land for spring sowing—more than last year. (0300)

Farmers in Amur Oblast have overfulfilled the plan for sales of soybean to the state by 50 percent. (0500)

First frosts are creating problems for sugar beet harvesting in the Ukraine. The harvesting has been completed only in Dnepropetrovsk, Sumy, and Chernigov Oblasts. Yet 2 million tonnes of sugar beet still remain in the fields throughout the Republic and about the same amount is yet to be dug up. (1200)

Rice harvesting is drawing to a close in Uzbekistan. In the republic as a whole this valuable food crop remains to be harvested on an area of less than 10,000 hectares. To date 600,000 tonnes of grain have been harvested, which is far in excess of the indices of past years. (1600)

28 October

Corn harvestng has come to an end in Kirghizia, the average yield being 68 quintals per hectare—higher than planned. This year, Kirghizia has sold the state a total of over 250,000 tonnes of wheat, barley, corn, and other grain crops. (0304)

Kashka-Darya Oblast in Uzbekistan has delivered over 520,000 tonnes of cotton to the procurement centers—twice as much as at this time last year. (0304)

29 October

The agricultural workers of North Ossetia have fulfilled their plan for the year for selling grain to the state and have sent 150,000 tonnes of grain to grain reception enterprises. The yield of corn is more than 40 quintals per hectare, which is higher than the levels set down in the plan. (1200)

The sugar beet harvest in Belorussia is coming to an end. More than 1,200,000 tonnes of beets are already at the procurement centers.

Military

USSR Navy Composition Statistics Cited

PM2810163988 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 44, 29 Oct-4 Nov 88 (Signed to Press 27 Oct 88) p 8

[Editorial reply to reader's request for publication of Soviet Navy statistics—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] I read in our press that the Soviet Union has handed to the United Nations official data on the composition of the USSR Navy. I think the information would interest Soviet people too. Could you publish the figures?

S. Lapushkin, Miass.

USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy did indeed, in his speech at the UN General Assembly First Committee, read out figures on the USSR Navy (as of 1 July 1988) which had been submitted to the United Nations. The figures are as follows.

1. Aircraft-carrying ships [avianesushchiye korabli]—4.

2. Submarines—376.

3. Cruisers, destroyers, missile frigates—96.

4. Escort (frigates) and small ASW ships—174.

5. Combatant craft and minesweepers—623.

6. Amphibious warfare ships and landing craft—107.

7. All combat ships—1380.

8. Combat aircraft and helicopters—1142.

9. Naval infantry (thousands)—12.6.

Yazov, Lizichev Participate in Komsomol Aktiv
OW3110021088 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2230 GMT 29 Oct 88

[From the "I Serve the Soviet Union" program—Army General Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov, USSR Minister of Defense, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo; and Army General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, speak to the Army and Navy Komsomol Aktiv meeting held 28 October at the Soviet Army Central House on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Komsomol; also present at the meeting was Viktor Mironenko, Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol [VLKSM] first secretary—recorded]

[Text] A meeting between the leadership of the Ministry of Defense and the Army and Navy's Komsomol Aktiv was held on the occasion of the VLKSM's 70th anniversary at the Soviet Army Central House. Representatives of districts, fleets, and army groups came here to air their problems and put forward specific proposals on restructuring the military Komsomol's work. [video shows officers and enlisted men entering the conference room and taking their seats. Yazov, Lizichev, Mironenko, and an unidentified lieutenant colonel, are seen seated on the rostrum] Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, began the discussion.

[Begin recording] [Lizichev] Comrades, please be seated. We are pleased to note that many of you present here today have made contributions to ensure that our Komsomol is actively participating in questions relating to increasing the quality of military training, and are also actively participating in the main issue, the main task which the army is entrusted with—qualitative growth in all areas.

Even though we have gathered here to mark a jubilee and it seems that on such occasions it is customary to speak only of the good things, nevertheless today—as Vladimir Ilich Lenin taught us and as the party's Central Committee and the CPSU Central Committee's general secretary, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, teaches us now—we should focus our attention primarily on shortcomings. That is why I would like to see our talk today be concerned with how the following problems are being solved: How does our Komsomol perform on the spot, in restructuring, in increasing the quality of military and political training, in the influence that the Komsomol has on nonparty youth and its ability to lead the youth? I would like to see you clearly and succinctly share your opinions on the way you are being entrusted with the solution of certain tasks, your responsibilities, the way you are being assessed as leaders of the Komsomol, for your ability to work and lead the youth.

[Sergeant M. Soldatov—identified by caption] I was sent to Afghanistan straight from a training unit. I fired my weapon only twice during training. I threw a grenade once. What sort of a soldier am I? That is my question. I am by no means alone in this. Speaking about being a sergeant: My personal experience leads me to believe that it would have been better to pick them from among the better-trained privates in the unit because, for example, when I came to my unit, I did not know anyone. I did not know them as people. I had to become part of the collective, which is a lengthy process, to get to know them so that I could lead them effectively. I am also concerned that we are poorly prepared before call-up—very poorly.

[Sergeant Major M. Torekhanov] I read and heard about nonregulation behavior—physical insults, hazing, and abuse—even before serving in the Army. I have been serving in the Army for 2 years and my time is nearing its end. I can truly say that such behavior is very rarely encountered—I mean when a person is severely beaten up, or something like this. I have never seen anything like this, but we have to face the facts that such nonregulation behavior does occur, even among soldiers of the same intake, on ethnic grounds. In my opinion, nonregulation behavior presently manifests itself because of that.

[Unidentified sergeant] We have studied your answer at a Komsomol meeting to a letter written by a number of servicemen that deals with nonregulation behavior, and have unanimously agreed that unless all soldiers and NCO's actively participate in the solution of this problem, it will not be solved. Similarly, there should be some way to encourage servicemen—perhaps issue them an appropriate reference, or even make an entry into their military records. This way, when we are discharged—and once we leave the forces we are all equal—then, if I have served well while he served just so-so, nobody knows of this except the military authorities of the unit that he served in.

[Sergeant I. Khovrin—identified by caption] Sergeant Khovrin, Moscow Military District. I was present at the MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS newspaper's presentation, which was held at the wonderful Palace of Youth. Strange as it may be, one of the questions discussed at this meeting was that of nonregulation behavior. We fully understand the importance of this problem, but nevertheless I was offended when the question was raised. Mud was poured on the Armed Forces openly from the podium, on the officer corps, and indirectly on us, the enlisted servicemen. I have a proposal: Let a meeting be held in the Central Committee—this is quite possible—and in the presence of soldiers let us discuss with the representatives of the mass media their policy and the Komsomol press' policy towards the Army.

[Lieutenant V. Golyanov—identified by caption] Comrade Minister of Defense. Comrades. I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to raise two problems which give us military pilots concern. The first problem is related to the fall in the prestige of the profession of defender of the motherland. Unfortunately this problem has touched the flyers as well. This can be judged by the drop in competition for entrance into military academies, including flying schools. [end recording]

[Voice of the announcer] Then Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and USSR defense minister, spoke. He said:

[Begin Yazov recording] A young man becomes aware of his responsibilities when he enters the Armed Forces. Restructuring is unfolding and deepening in the Armed Forces, as in the rest of the country. This means essentially that every soldier should increase his workload, improve the performance of duties that he is entrusted with, and more fully utilize all the opportunities made available to him by the motherland and develop his professional and spiritual potential so as to increase his level of military preparedness.

Certain changes for the better have been noted during the 3 and ½ years of restructuring. The number of crimes have decreased by approximately a third compared to 1985. However, the main task set by the party's Central Committee—to ensure the fundamental strengthening of the Army's and Navy's military discipline—has been proceeding until now at a slow pace. This was pointed out to us at the 13 October Politburo meeting.

One of the most important tasks assigned to the Armed Forces by the Central Committee is to master and be fully governed by the defense doctrine. One of the main tasks of this doctrine is the prevention of war, followed by the maintenance of military readiness, repulsion of aggressive intrigues, and so forth.

How can war be prevented? This is our main task and this problem should constantly occupy us. Let us take a look at why we are being criticized. If the criticisms are just, then we should take due notice of them in our practical activities and avoid them in the future. If the criticisms are leveled with the aim of belittling the dignity of the Armed Forces, if the criticisms are unjust, then nothing prevents us from speaking out, just like Comrade Sergeant Khovrin spoke. However, not all people think the same way as Comrade Khovrin does. If there are things about us that are negative, do they then have the right to criticize us? Yes, they do. One of the aspects of restructuring is to ensure that there are no organizations or aspects of the government apparatus which can be outside criticism, outside glasnost. I will say it again: If we are being criticized unfairly, let us speak out through the very same journals and newspapers. I feel pain, perhaps more pain then you, when we are being criticized. However, if we are being criticized justly, we have to correct the situation rather than try to brush the criticisms aside.

The heroic deeds of Soviet fighting men in rendering international aid to the Republic of Afghanistan is an example of the highest form of internationalism and, if you wish, even patriotism. During the cleanup following the Chernobyl AES disaster, in the mastering of space, in harvesting, and in the fulfillment of other tasks, the Lenin Komsomol and, as a rule, the Army Komsomol, has always been in the forefront. Just think of it: We, the Armed Forces, are by far the most organized part of Soviet society. When a disaster strikes—say in Bologoye, Arzamas, or Sverdlovsk—it is a tragedy, a sorrow for the people there. Who then should be the first to come help? The first on the scene to render help to the people should be the servicemen. Who were the first on the scene at Chernobyl? The servicemen, as they should have been. Therefore the servicemen are simply discharging their duties, because we are performing our duties in the interest of the people, for the people, in the name of the people. The people respect and love their Armed Forces. [end recording]

Yazov Addresses Komsomol Activists on Anniversary

LD2310034488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 22 Oct 88

[Text] There has been a meeting in Moscow between Army General Yazov, candidate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of defense, and Komsomol activists of front-ranking units and ships, devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Komsomol. The meeting discussed the progress of restructuring the work of the Komsomol in the Army and Navy. Comrade Yazov addressed those assembled. He noted inter alia that the Komsomol organizations of the Army and Navy must resolutely join the struggle against ostentatious show, window dressing, indulgence, and oversimplification. Young people should be constantly aware of their responsibility for the cause of defending the motherland, he stressed.

Morozov Interviews Colonel General Chervov

AU2710202388 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 26 Oct 88 p 6

[Interview with Colonel General Nikolay Chervov, "military-political expert," by Colonel V. Morozov, "NOVOSTI political observer,": "Military Doctrines and Strategic Stability"—date, place not given]

[Text] Colonel V. Morozov, NOVOSTI political observer, talked with Colonel General Nikolay Chervov, military-political expert, who answered a few questions connected with modern military doctrines.

[Morozov] The main premise of the socialist states' modern doctrine is to prevent war. This is the supreme goal of the Warsaw Pact member states and their armed forces. For the first time, the premises on preventing war have been included in a military doctrine in such a categorical manner. Of course, in the past the activity of the Warsaw Pact member states also included dynamic actions against war. However, this task has now been given priority. Why is this?

[Chervov] First of all, because in the nuclear century war is connected with disasterous consequences for both sides. Now it can no longer be a means of achieving political goals, because it would cause a world conflagration. We would like the United States and NATO member states to clearly declare that their designs and actions are directed toward preventing war—both nuclear and conventional.

The most important characteristic of the Warsaw Pact doctrine is its defensive character. In solving the defensive tasks, we start from the principle of reciprocal actions. All our defensive measures are aimed against the military threat. In constructing the armed forces, we are strictly led by the principle of defensive sufficiency, which involves a defensive capability on the part of the country and its armed forces such as would ensure the state's reliable defense (and, respectively, the alliance of states) against aggression, with a minimum use of armed forces.

[Morozov] In this respect, what can you say about NATO's military doctrine?

[Chervov] NATO member states present their military doctrine as a defensive one. They include in it the concept of a "flexible reaction" and "reacting to a first strike." However, we have a different opinion. We note a striving on the part of the United States and NATO to strengthen their security, not together with others, but at the expense of others, along the road of continuing the arms race. Many facts testify to this tendency, including the plans to "compensate" for the "Pershing II" and "Cruise" missiles, the refusal to assume the obligation to refrain from inflicting a first nuclear strike, conducting large-scale maneuvers which hardly differ from really deploying troops for the conduct of a war near the borders of the socialist countries, and so forth.

One also cannot connect NATO's concept of the "nuclear threat" with any defensive purposes. This concept actually better suits the "Cold War" period. In essence, this is a contradictory and dangerous concept. It is inconsistent to maintain that a nuclear conflict will turn into a catastrophe for all, and at the same time insist that nuclear weapons must be preserved as a means of "guaranteeing peace." So far, nobody has proved and nobody can prove that a third world war would have developed inevitably if there had been no nuclear weapons. The other hypothesis is more logical: If there were no nuclear weapons, mankind, including the population of Europe, would not have found itself on the verge of a catastrophe at certain moments.

If there has been no third world war until now, this is no guarantee that it could not happen at a later moment, and that nuclear weapons would not be used so long as the United States and NATO are not prepared to renounce the use of a first nuclear strike.

[Morozov] And what is your general conclusion?

[Chervov] NATO's concept does not allow a solution of the nuclear problems. It encourages the arms race, leads to a further accumulation of weapons, destabilizes the military balance, and increases the risk of a nuclear war. The aggressive purpose of the military doctrines of the United States and NATO has been unequivocally incorporated into the rules of combat, the instructions, and all constituent directives and documents related to setting up the armed forces.

The changes which are taking place in the world require mutual understanding and cooperation between the USSR and the United States, and between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in everything related to their military activity. The Warsaw Pact member states are fully determined to be guided daily by the principles of a defensive strategy and defensive sufficiency.

Kulikov Opens Ustinov Commemorative Evening

PM3110125588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 88 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Evening Commemorating D.F. Ustinov"]

[Text] An evening to mark the 80th anniversary of the birth of Hero of the Soviet Union, twice Hero of Socialist Labor Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov was held 28 October at the M.V. Frunze Central House of the Soviet Army.

The evening was opened by Marshal of the Soviet Union V. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister and commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces.

Army General V. Shabanov, USSR deputy defense minister, delivered a report.

Admiral of the Fleet V. Kasatonov, Army General S. Vasyagin, and Colonel General I. Illarionov, retired, shared their memories of D.F. Ustinov.

The meeting was attended by Colonel General V. Nechayev, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate, and A. Makarov, N. Shakhov, and V. Zelenkov, responsible workers of the CPSU Central Committee.

Lushev Addresses Sports Chiefs' Rally

PM3110132588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 29 Oct 88 Second Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Rally of Department Chiefs"]

[Text] A training method rally of chiefs of the USSR Defense Ministry military training establishments' physical training and sports department has been held on the basis of the Kiev M.V. Frunze Combined Arms Command School.

The main aim of the rally, Major General V. Marushchak, chairman of the USSR Defense Ministry Sports Committee, noted in his report, was to provide a critical analysis of the results of physical training and sports work in VUZ's in the 1988 academic year.

As well as generalizing experience and discussing new methods, during the rally there was a control exercise to check knowledge of guideline documents and the basic provisions of the 1987 physical training manual.

The rally was addressed by Army General P. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister.

Drug Addiction Among Soviet Soldiers Alleged

PM2710120188 Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Oct 88 p 12

[Article by Boris Kalachev, lecturer at the Moscow USSR MVD Higher Militia School: "No Room for This in the Ranks"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] A recent CPSU Central Committee Politburo session examined the question of how party resolutions on strengthening military discipline in the Army and Navy are being fulfilled. It was noted that, despite a number of positive changes for the better, the main task—to radically improve military discipline in the Soviet Army—demands additional measures. We would like to see serious attention being paid to the problem discussed in the article we publish in the course of the elaboration of these measures.

Does the problem of drug addiction exist in our Armed Forces? Unfortunately it does.

Let us cast our minds back to last May. While under the influence of stupefacients, Captain A. Bogomolov, a military construction worker by profession, behaved scandalously in the main cabin of a TU-154 on the Alma-Ata-Arkalyk-Moscow route, and before actual takeoff threatened to blow up the aircraft, in which he alleged a bomb had been planted. On this occasion his fellow passengers suffered nothing more than a bit of a scare. Once the officer came back to his senses he tried to turn his action into a joke, after having delayed the flight by 2 hours.

But events developed in a much more tragic fashion last year, when internal troops servicemen actually made an attempt to capture and hijack an aircraft, an incident which aroused a broad public response. Three of the four bandits, armed with rapid-fire combat weapons, proved to be drug addicts (in other words people unable to live without the constant use of drugs) who had been diagnosed as such even before being drafted into the army. Does this mean that the military commissariats which posted them to serve and defend the motherland were ignorant of this fact? And generally speaking, how long ago did this problem start worrying us? If we were to believe articles published in the past, it must have happened almost literally yesterday. But in reality this is certainly not the case.

It was way back in the late sixties that psychiatrists Ye.B. Kagan, N.D. Kuznetsov, F.A. Saburenko, and others bluntly raised the question of numerous instances when they had detected drug users among conscript soldiers, especially those serving in Central Asia. For example, Ye.B. Kagan estimated that 20 percent of soldiers actually started using drugs in the military units. "In our conditions," he wrote in one of his articles, "we do not encounter any cases of people giving up smoking [drugs] as a result of medical measures, not even after a long stay in the hospital." On this basis, he drew the conclusion: Long-term drug addicts should not be drafted into the Army.

Does this mean that the Army had faced up to the problem of drug addiction as far back as 20 years ago? Were the experts' warnings heeded? Here is a document of "historical" importance which came into being only 4 short years after the psychiatrists' conclusions. It is a reply, from a Moscow rayon military commissariat, to a request by the same rayon's internal affairs administration, asking the commissariat to watch out for drug users of draft age and to identify them during their examination by medical commissions. The military commissar replied that they keep no such records and, generally speaking, "drug addiction is no bar to service in the ranks of the Soviet Army...."

Here is the evidence from random sociological studies conducted in 1987 in three of the country's regions—Moscow, Kiev, and Krasnodar Kray—and covering more than 3,000 people. Some 26.9 percent of students from some 20 VUZ's who admitted to using stupefacients for nonmedical purposes proved to be young men who had started using them in the Army. The following alarming pattern emerged: The worse a region of the country is affected by drug addiction, the smaller the number of young men who first u[illegible] drugs in the barracks—since they have been able t[illegible] so at home—and vice versa. Hence, the proportions were: almost one-half of Kievans, 14.3 percent of Muscovites, and just 6.2 percent of young men from Krasnodar. An even smaller proportion of those who acquired the habit in the Army

was found among persons who had stood trial in the past and had been drafted into the Army after serving sentences in places of detention.

Consequently, this is not an exclusively "army" or "civilian" problem. The struggle against such a persistent negative phenomenon must be actively waged both in military units and outside them. So far, however, there has been a dangerous alliance of passivity.

The following extremely disturbing facts also came to light. It was respondents who had been through the school of Afghanistan (among those who admitted to having experimented with drugs) who indicated on the questionnaire that they knew of the existence of heroin and LSD. Here is how anonymous interlocutors tried to explain the "drugs-war" relationship in private conversations after the poll. Of course, they said, soldiers did not always take them in combat conditions, but this did happen.... The young men attributed their liking for the drug to its ability to ease nervous stress prior to combat operations, during nighttime guard duty close to bushman positions, and other circumstances. Generally speaking, contacts with them made it clear that they had no problem in obtaining hashish, opium, or other drugs from the local population....

After this poll of young people, the pollsters themselves started asking questions.

Afghanistan is one of the most ancient countries in the Orient, where the use of drugs as a way of life has historical roots among the local population. This fact was pointed out even by Academician N.I. Vavilov, who traveled in those places back in the twenties. But apart from the famous scientist's observations, there is also the practical knowledge available both abroad and in our own prerevolutionary past, which convincingly proves the validity of the following law. Whenever military subunits live alongside the population of countries (in the continent of Asia, as a rule) where drug addiction is deeply rooted as a way of life, this naturally leads to contacts between servicemen and local residents and the adoption of negative and antisocial habits, traditions, and rules of behavior.

Back in the last century this resulted in the appearance of drug addicts and opium smokers in a whole series of European countries. Suffice it to recall Napoleon's unsuccessful expedition to Egypt, when the remnants of the French Army returned home with their backpacks filled with hashish. And how about the alarm sounded by America in 1944 as a result of the spread of drug addiction among soldiers stationed in Burma, India, and Iran, and its demands to curb the sowing of the opium poppy in the aforementioned countries, where drug addicts even constituted up to 75 percent of the police? Finally, this is also indicated by the lamentable experience of the U.S. wars in Korea and Vietnam when, thanks to organized crime, the use of drugs spread to the U.S. Army and later developed into a real calamity not so much for a limited number of U.S. citizens living outside their country as for the whole nation, for the entire U.S. people.

It does not matter whether the drug users are soldiers from an enslaving army or a liberation army. The consequences are the same. They are particularly exacerbated if organized crime gets involved. According to data from the DRA Sarandoy (people's militia), more than one-third of a tonne of heroin, more than 5 tonnes of opium, and 21 tonnes of hashish were confiscated from the local mafia in Afghanistan's territory in 1987 alone. In the Soviet Union, a country far larger than Afghanistan in terms of both territory and population, 4.2 tonnes of narcotics were withdrawn from criminal circulation in the same year. Therefore it appears that there were 0.015 grams of narcotics per capita in the USSR (according to population figures for 1985), against 1.6 grams in the DRA, which is 100 times more.

Is there any confirmation of such frightening forecasts? First, the results of the aforementioned random sociological studies. Second, the records of numerous criminal cases instituted against servicemen over drug-related crimes committed either while in the Army or after demobilization, in the "civilian world." Third, the actual cases of Soviet customs officers detaining entire containers crossing the Soviet Union in transit. Undoubtedly the gravity of the problem will be described in letters from readers who have themselves directly or indirectly come across drugs in the Army. Targeted sociological studies conducted in military subunits will also produce an updated answer. It is evident that equally weighty information could be supplied by customs organs: Has there recently been an increase in the number of cases of confiscation of drugs from soldiers, sergeants, officers, and military personnel of other ranks?

So, since this issue directly affects our children and relatives, as well as the moral and physical health of the growing generation, we are entitled to ask the competent persons responsible for our Armed Forces: What preventive and other measures have been taken by the Army command to ensure that there is no room for the problem of drug addiction among servicemen? What is it doing while an all-union campaign to combat drug addiction is being conducted outside military units?

I am writing this article for the sole purpose of ensuring that glasnost helps in the struggle against this terrible evil.

Ships on Gulf Duty Make Relief Port Calls

PM2810185988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Oct 88 First Edition p4

[Unattributed answer to reader's letter under the rubric "We Answer Readers' Questions": "Port Calls Authorized"—first paragraph consists of reader's letter]

[Text] As is well known, our warships at times spend long periods on duty in the Persian Gulf. This year I have often read in the newspapers that the question of Soviet ships being able to use port facilities in the Gulf so that

their crews can rest has yet to be resolved. What is the position at present?

Petty Officer 1st Class (Reserve) N. Legostayev, Irkutsk Oblast.

Our editorial office has been informed by the Naval Political Directorate that an accord has now been reached, whereby our ships and vessels from the auxiliary fleet can visit ports in the United Arab Emirates. The naval minesweeper "Rulevoy" and the hospital ship "Ob," which are on duty in the Persian Gulf, have already made port calls at Abu Dhabi. Our seamen went ashore.

Ships from the auxiliary fleet have also visited the port of Dubayy. After sailing in the Persian Gulf, some Soviet ships have made calls at ports in India and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.